JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS

By

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We hear thousands of TEENAGE VOICES, SCREAMING with EXCITEMENT.

1 EXT. AIRPORT - DAY 1

A BREATHLESS TEENAGE GIRL talks to the camera. She's surrounded by other teenagers who are looking off in the other direction anxiously.

TEENAGE FAN
Okay, like I can't believe that I'm actually here and I'm going to get to see them in the flesh because, like, Du Jour is like, my favorite band of all time!!!

A bunch of teens are singing along to Du Jour on a BOOM BOX.

FANS
"Well they say this kind of love is wrong, but you know it feels so right -- Runnin' my hands across your cheeks, they're oh so smooth and white ... So leave your light on baby and unlock your back door-- I'll be comin' thru that way again to love you for sure!"

We FLASH! to QUICK CLIPS of DU JOUR ON TOP OF THE WORLD: CD'S, POSING WITH FANS, CLIPS FROM A VIDEO, VARIOUS DUJOUR PRODUCTS AND THOUSANDS OF TEENAGE FANS SCREAMING for this ultimate MULTI-RACIAL/POP/HIP-HOP/LATINOSOUND/BOY BAND. The guys do crazy-ass dance moves. The kids LOVE THEM.

Another fan at the airport. An emotional 13 year old boy.

TEENAGE BOY FAN
They rock! I've got all their CD's and have all the trading cards and all my gear is from their clothing line, "Du Jour Couture." I straight up love them!
(beat)
Y'know. Like brothers.

Cut to another girl fan. She's crying. HYSTERICALLY.

CRYING FAN
I ... I just want to touch them. I don't care which one. I don't care where!

Suddenly SCREAMING moves through the crowd like a wave. Bigger than Beatlemania. The girl who's talking to us looks around, frantic.

CRYING FAN (cont'd)
Oh my god they're here! THEY'RE HERE!!!

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 1

Indeed a HUMMER LIMO is pulling past the security barricades, onto the TARMAC, blasting the new Du Jour single over built-in speakers. The crowd is going berserk. Screaming, waving, holding up home made banners.

The limo pulls to a stop, in front of a PRIVATE JET (emblazoned with the DU JOUR LOGO) and in unison, all the doors fly open. The BOYS in the band all step out of the limo and, perfectly in time with the music, form a line and start dancing and waving to the crowd.

It didn't seem possible, but the screaming gets LOUDER. The boys dance over and sign a few autographs. Girls faint. Boys cry.

Meanwhile, WYATT FRAME, 30's, British, and strikingly handsome, steps out of the limo. He CHECKS HIS REFLECTION in the tinted window, then looks at his watch.

WYATT
Come on boys. We don't want to be late.

The boys look at Wyatt and fall back into formation, DANCING their way up the stairs and into the plane. Wyatt follows them, but at the top of the steps he turns back around and takes a look at the sea of still screaming teens. He smiles. The screaming sound blends with...

2 EXT. PRIVATE JET - DAY 2

The JET streaking through the sky.

3 INT. PRIVATE JET - DAY 3

The members of Du Jour lounge inside the fully customized luxury jet. Drinking Champagne, living the life. The SEXY LATINO HEARTTHROB (MARCO), the AFRICAN AMERICAN DJ (DJ DJ), the UNSHAVEN REBEL (TRAVIS) and the BLONDE, BOYISH, "SAFE" ONE (LES).

Wyatt stands in front of them, going over the itinerary.

WYATT
Okay, we land at Riverdale in half and hour. We do the song and dance at the airport, then over to the --
(checks a card)
"Riverdale Rise and Shine" show. Then an afternoon in-store prior to sound check, then concert at eight. Questions?

MARCO, who's feeding his PET MONKEY, speaks up.

3 CONTINUED: 3

MARCO
Yo, Wyatt. Why's my limited edition Coke can have me with a goatee? Everybody knows I shaved it into a soul patch for our "Don't Tell Your Poppa" video. This is whack.

He shows Wyatt the COKE CAN with his face on it.

DJ DJ
(pissed)
No, what's whack is that dirty ass monkey.
(holds up his TRAVEL BAG)
Damn monkey pooed all up in my bag!

MARCO
(re: monkey)
You don't give Dr. Zeaus the love, he gives you the poo.

Wyatt intervenes.

WYATT
Gentlemen, gentlemen. We'll talk to Coke about the cans.
(to Marco)
And try and clean up after the Doctor.

Wyatt makes a note on his PALM VII. Travis speaks up next. He's touching his hair.

TRAVIS
Wyatt, I thought I was the only one who was supposed to have 'pure platinum' tips, and Marco was supposed to have 'honey bitch', but now his look just like mine.

MARCO
(pissed)
What, you like, *own* 'pure platinum'? You like, the 'pure platinum' *owner*?

Marco gets up in Travis' face. Travis puts his fists up, ready to go. The MONKEY STARTS SCREECHING. Wyatt steps between them.

WYATT
Boys. This is obviously the fault of the hair team. No reason to explode. I'll get it all ironed out when we land.

3 CONTINUED: (2) 3

The boys step down as Wyatt makes another note on the Palm.

WYATT (cont'd)
How are we now? Good? Happy?

All seems to be fine, until Les speaks up.

LES
Actually, Wyatt there is one more thing.

Wyatt whips out the Palm Pilot again.

3 CONTINUED: (3) 3

LES (cont'd)
We were working on a remix of the last single when we found this weird background track. I was wondering if you could explain ...

Les hands Wyatt a DAT PLAYER and HEADPHONES. Wyatt listens and suddenly becomes very serious. And interested. He removes the TAPE and POCKETS IT.

WYATT
Gee. You know, I have no idea what that was.

DJ D.J.
Then who put it on there?

TRAVIS
We want some answers.

WYATT
Then answers I will provide.
(beat)
I'll be right back.

He quickly turns and walks into the COCKPIT, closing the door behind him. DJ D.J. smiles.

DJ D.J.
Wyatt's the man.

4 INT. COCKPIT - DAY 4

Wyatt leans in to THE PILOT, all business.

WYATT
Take the Chevy to the Levee.

The PILOT immediately gets up from the controls and PUTS ON A PARACHUTE. WYATT DOES THE SAME. Then they open the COCKPIT DOOR ... and BAIL OUT.

5 INT. JET - DAY 5

Grooming himself in a large mirror, TRAVIS turns and spots something out the window.

TRAVIS
Hey! Check it out! That guy with the parachute looks just like Wyatt.

The band looks out. So it does. Then Marco turns to Travis, narrows his eyes.

5 CONTINUED: 5

MARCO
I'll 'Honey Bitch' all over your ass.

Travis lunges at Marco. A fight begins, Wyatt forgotten ...

6 EXT. QUAINT HIGHWAY - DAY 6

We see the PILOT land safely in the distance as WYATT drifts into the foreground. He's already on a CELL PHONE and his feet haven't even touched the ground.

6 CONTINUED: 6

WYATT
(into phone)
Looks like we need to find another band.

In the background we see the PLANE TILTING FROM SIDE TO SIDE as it sputters out of frame. Wyatt lands and looks at a sign by the side of the road. It reads: WELCOME TO RIVERDALE.

As Wyatt walks off, we hear a LOUD BOOM (causing the CAMERA to SHAKE)* -- But now it sounds like DRUM LICK, kicking us into a song. And as the drums roll, SPOTS start to appear on screen. LEOPARD SPOTS ... *FILLING THE ENTIRE SCREEN.*

That's when the TITLE SONG comes rocking our way : "3 SMALL WORDS" And the TITLES SEQUENCE BEGINS.

"JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS"

From our title card, we cut to a series of CLOSE UPS:

- A SEXY, LEOPARD PRINT DOC MARTEN BOOT, tapping to the beat.

- A PAIR OF BATTERED DENIM SHORTS PULLED OVER A PAIR OF SEXY LEGS with A LEOPARD "TAIL" ATTACHED TO THE BACKSIDE.

- A PAIR OF LEOPARD "EARS" TUCKED INTO A HEAD OF RED HAIR.

AND A BRACELETED HAND COMING DOWN ON A BATTERED STRATOCASTER.

We WHIP UP to find JOSIE McCOY, red-haired and sexy, SINGING LEAD VOCALS and PLAYING GUITAR. We FREEZE on her. Then other CLIPS OF JOSIE FLASH ONTO THE SCREEN (SUPER-8, 16MM, HOME VIDEO ...ETC.): A shot of Josie teaching GUITAR LESSONS to a little girl. Josie working at an indie CD STORE. Josie working another job as a WAITRESS. Josie writing music. Josie playing video games. Josie crying at an old movie. Josie slow dancing with a GREAT-LOOKING GUY (ALAN M.) -- then we reveal it's a DREAM as she sleeps. We go back to the first still of JOSIE PLAYING and FLASH! -- UNFREEZE.

Josie rocks on and we whip to ... VALERIE BROWN. Tall, foxy, and grooving away on the bass. We FLASH and FREEZE on Val. We then see her CLIPS: Valerie working at a SPORTING GOODS STORE. Val working at a BOOKSTORE. Val demonstrating a KARATE PUNCH on a dummy for a class of GERIATRICS. Val scaling a CLIMBING WALL. Back in the KARATE CLASS, Val is VICIOUSLY BEATING the dummy, a few of the elderly students look wary. Val RUNNING in the RIVERDALE 10K. Val is now BEATING THE STUFFING out of the dummy -- the old folks look terrified. Val being sworn in as PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (that's her dream bubble) ... Back to the still of Val, FLASH and UNFREEZE ... *

6 CONTINUED: (2) 6

We whip to MELODY, the drop-dead gorgeous blonde behind the drums. On the BASS DRUM, a homemade logo reads: "THE PUSSYCATS". Freeze frame.

6 CONTINUED: (3) 6

And we see the clips of Melody's life: Melody smiling at us HUGGING a PUPPY. Hugging a KITTEN. Hugging a large LIZARD. Melody at a BUSY INTERSECTION, WEARING HER EARS AND TAIL, holding up SIGNS: "Honk if you love hugs", "Honk if you love rainbows"... as CARS WHIZ BY. A final SIGN: "Honk if you love The Pussy" -- TWO CARS HAVE COLLIDED, the GUYS inside gaping at Melody. The next frame reveals THE PART OF THE SIGN HIDDEN BY A TREE: "Honk if you love The Pussycats"." Melody is dreaming of herself SLEEPING.

Now we cut to the girls together, rocking their way through the song. And we see other images of the THREE OF THEM pop onscreen: Pushing their broken-down van up the street. Telling Melody she can't bring in another stray cat, but then giving in. Fighting over the bathroom of their tiny house. Jumping together on a TRAMPOLINE. Dancing a crazy "pussycat" dance in a club -- having the time of their lives-- while other club goers look at them oddly. "Tagging" their garage door with leopard spray paint.

BACK TO THE GIRLS PLAYING

The THEME is loud and raucous now, cranking towards the finish. Fingers fly across strings, sticks roll over drum heads, sweat glistens, amps blare ... END SONG.

AND WE HEAR A BALL ROLL DOWN AN ALLEY AND STRIKE PINS. PULL BACK TO REVEAL ...

6A INT. RIVERDALE LANES - DAY 6A *

The girls are playing this set in a BOWLING ALLEY. The 'stage' is literally on a darkened lane, up against a wall, by an EXIT. No one's watching the girls. No one. *

JOSIE *
(breathless, into mic) *
Thank you. *

We hear a CHEER. Reveal it's just a group of OLDER MALE BOWLERS applauding a teammate's SPARE. Josie, Val and Mel exchange looks. Trying to keep it together, Josie leans into the mic again. *

JOSIE (cont'd) *
Uh, thanks for comin out. You're a ... *
great crowd. *

A VOICE BLARES over the P.A. *

P.A. VOICE *
Okay girls, we need the lane now. *
(a beat) *
And your shoes. *

6A CONTINUED: 6A

They look down to reveal they're all wearing BOWLING SHOES.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY FRONT DESK - DAY

CLOSE ON: The SHOE RENTAL GUY takes back their shoes as Josie steps away from the desk with some CASH in her hand. She steps over to the girls who are waiting expectantly.

VALERIE
So how'd we do?

JOSIE
Twenty dollars!

The girls look excited.

JOSIE (cont'd)
Minus a five dollar shoe rental --

VALERIE
(a little less excited)
Fifteen dollars.

JOSIE
Each.

VALERIE
(trying to make the best of it)
Five dollars.

Josie holds up the five dollar bill -- which is snatched right out of her hand.

ALEXANDER
Which I get fifteen percent of.

Josie turns to see Alexander and Alexandra.

JOSIE
Alexander!

ALEXANDER
I'm your manager. And I'm entitled to fifteen percent of everything you make.

JOSIE
But you're a millionaire!

ALEXANDER
So you know I'm good for the change.

He pockets the five. Alexandra steps up.

CONTINUED:

ALEXANDRA
Let's go! This place smells. And there's nothing to buy here.

MELODY
Hi, Alexandra!

ALEXANDRA
Bite me, Bambi.
(to Alexander)
Hurry up or I'm telling Daddy you borrowed his Bentley.

ALEXANDER
(to the girls)
I'll catch you on the flip side.

Alexander and Alexandra turn to leave. The girls look down at the TONS OF EQUIPMENT they have to lug outside.

JOSIE
You're leaving?

ALEXANDER
Business meeting.

ALEXANDRA
We're going to the DuJour concert.

ALEXANDER
(laughs)
For a business meeting!

That made no sense. The girls stare at him. He turns and runs off.

VALERIE
That's perfect. Even our manager would rather see another band.

6B EXT. RIVERDALE LANES - DAY 6B

The girls are loading their last piece of equipment into their beat up van.

JOSIE
Well, all things considered, I think that was our best show yet.

VALERIE
We've just gotta build a following.

6B CONTINUED: 6B

MELODY
A bunch of guys rushed the stage right when we started.

VALERIE
Mel, they were looking up my shirt.

MELODY
What were they looking for?

Val gives Mel a little squeeze.

VALERIE
That's why we love ya.

Just then, we hear catty, girly LAUGHTER. A SUZUKI SIDEKICK full of HIGHLIGHTED, IMPLANTED, MIDRIFF-BARING GIRLS are pointing at Josie and the girls.

LAUGHING GIRL #1
Look! Skanky had a rock show and nobody came.

The catty girls laugh.

JOSIE
(to the girls)
So, did you guys all coordinate before leaving the house, or are you just wearing the exact same clothes by accident?

LAUGHING GIRL #3
At least we're not wearing stupid bunny ears.

MELODY
They're not bunny, they're leopard. And they're not stupid, they're special. We're special!

LAUGHING GIRL #1
Yeah, Special Ed.

They laugh.

LAUGHING GIRL #3
I'm sure DuJour will think we look great...

She waves some TICKETS out the window.

(CONTINUED)

6B CONTINUED: (2) 6B

LAUGHING GIRL #2
Front row!

VALERIE
I'm so jealous. Like we'd wanna see DuJour.

LAUGHING GIRL #1
Well you should. Maybe it'd help you losers learn how a real band busts some moves.

JOSIE
You just said "bust some moves"!

She bursts out LAUGHING. Val and Mel join in. Laughing Girl #1 glares.

LAUGHING GIRL #1
Laugh it up, you no-talent bitches.
(re: bowling alley)
Enjoy the gutters, Josie! You'll be playing there forever!

With that, the car drives off. They chuck an empty DIET COKE CAN at the girls' van. Josie stands there in the parking lot, looking a bit beaten by that last comment. Val puts her arm around Josie.

VALERIE
Come on ... Who's a rock star?

Josie doesn't answer. Val leans on her.

VALERIE (cont'd)
Who's a rock star?

JOSIE
I am.

Val smiles and kisses her head.

VALERIE
There you go.

They head back to the van.

7 OMITTED 7

7A EXT. JOSIE'S NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY 7A

We travel down the street of a BRAND-NEW housing development. Every HOUSE the same. Every MAILBOX the same. Every car in every driveway an SUV. And at the end of this road we see a GRAVEL DRIVEWAY. Beyond that...

7B EXT. JOSIE'S HOUSE - DAY 7B

An overgrown field, a DILAPIDATED 60'S HOUSE, a yard full of LAWN STATUES and FLEA MARKET JUNK. CATS. CLOTHESLINES. In other words, the neighborhood eyesore. We hear an ELECTRIC GUITAR chugging through the window.

7C INT. JOSIE'S BEDROOM - DAY 7C

Josie stands at the foot of her bad, working on a new song. * She's playing hard -- and glances at herself in the mirror. * She walks over to the mirror and starts posing like a rock * star, pretending she's on stage. *

Behind her, Alan M. peeks his head in her sliding patio door. He's a super-hunky folk singer -- and Josie's best guy friend. He smirks as he watches her. She has no idea he's there.

ALAN M.
Nice moves!

The guitar's too loud to hear.

ALAN M. (cont'd)
NICE MOVES!

Josie hears him and turns her head to see him. She's startled and completely embarrassed.

JOSIE
Alan M!

She spins around to face him -- but hits a nearby LAMP with the neck of her guitar. It CRASHES to the floor. She pretends to ignore it, trying to look cool (but the cord is still dangling from the guitar). She runs a casual hand through her hair.

JOSIE (cont'd)
What's going on?

ALAN M.
The truck's dead.

7C CONTINUED: 7C

JOSIE
(annoyed)
Dude ..
(taking off her guitar)
Ever think maybe you should've taken auto shop with me instead of pottery?

Alan M. exits.

ALAN M.
But all the hot girls took pottery ...

Josie stands there, looking at herself in the mirror, not feeling particularly "hot".

JOSIE
All the hot girls ...

7D EXT. JOSIE'S HOUSE - DAY 7D

Josie works under the hood of Alan M.'s beat up truck while he watches, picking his acoustic guitar and singing.

ALAN M.
Did I bust the carburetor? Overload the alternator?

Josie picks up, singing along.

JOSIE
Abused the accelerator ...
(speaks)
You can't drive it uphill when it's hot out. You know, you don't deserve a truck this good. You totally take it for granted.

She glances at him for a moment, then turns her attention back to the engine.

ALAN M.
(starting a new tune)
Takin' my truck for granted, she says I'm takin' my truck for granted ...

He rocks for a bit, then stops.

ALAN M. (cont'd)
Hey, Jose ... did'ya ever wanna tell someone something, but you just -- weren't sure if you should?

Under the hood, Josie looks suddenly hopeful.

7D CONTINUED: 7D

JOSIE
Uh ... yeah.

Alan M. moves closer, under the hood with her.

ALAN M.
I mean, 'cause like you just weren't sure how they'd react or if it was really ... the right thing to do?

Josie turns, practically ready to leap into his arms.

JOSIE
It's always the right thing to do. Telling someone. Always tell. Always.

ALAN M.
'Cause there's this guy at work and he just reeks, you know?

JOSIE
(obviously disappointed)
A guy. A smelly guy.

ALAN M.
No I mean really smelly. Like, like -- hot garbage. I mean, you'd say something, right? No one else seems to want to but really, it's just ... well it's just wrong. You know? He smells like a stadium bathroom.

JOSIE
(annoyed)
Yeah. You should definitely say something.

She turns her attention back to the truck.

ALAN M.
I love that I can talk to you about stuff, you know? It's really cool.

JOSIE
That's what I'm here for.

She slams the hood shut.

JOSIE (cont'd)
You're all set.

ALAN M.
You rule, Jose. I'll call ya later.

(CONTINUED)

7D CONTINUED: (2) 7D

He hops in the truck and drives off. Josie watches him go, bummed.

8 INT. JOSIE'S KITCHEN - DAY 8

Josie, Val and Melody sit around the kitchen table, dividing up a bowl of ramen. They have a system down; each girl carefully takes a forkful of noodles at a time. Passes the bowl to her right. Picks up a little PACKET of SOY SAUCE, drips a few drops on her plate, then passes the soy after the noodles. They chew slowly. It's ceremonious. Pathetic, but ceremonious. As she eats, Val reads a BOOK TITLED: "12 STEPS TO ANGER MANAGEMENT."

JOSIE
(lying)
Mmmm. Good ramen.

VALERIE
Who would've thought one pack would go so far.

MELODY
I wonder if this is what Japan tastes like?

We hear a female voice from off-screen.

FEMALE VOICE (OS)
What died in here?

The girls turn to see ALEXANDRA CABOT, skunk-haired and a perpetual thorn in the band's side. She's in head-to-toe, label-prominent GUCCI, coolly examining her freshly manicured hands.

ALEXANDRA
Oh, must be your pathetic little hopes and dreams. Well someone at least crack a window.

VALERIE
Only if I can shove you out of it.

JOSIE
What are you doing here?

ALEXANDRA
Daddy says Cabots have to devote one day a week to charity.
(she tosses a penny on the table)
Finished!

8 CONTINUED: 8

Val stands, ready to pummel her. Melody intervenes.

MELODY
Val!

VALERIE
(mantra-like)
Good people don't get angry ...

Val sits, tightly gripping her book.

MELODY
See? We can all be friends.
(brightly, to Alexandra)
Hi Alexandra! Have you lost weight?

ALEXANDRA
Bite me, Bambi.

Alexandra's brother ALEXANDER CABOT enters. He's decked out in a trendy FUBU sweatsuit, tinted aviators and long sideburns. He waves a bag of KRISPY KREMES.

ALEXANDER
Who brought donuts?

JOSIE
Wow, Cabot charity knows no bounds.

VALERIE
I'll take 'em.

Val and Mel immediately go for the donuts.

ALEXANDRA
Good management skills brother. Build yourself a nice fat girl group.
(pointedly, at Josie)
I mean, *fatter* girl group.

Val glares and mumbles an OBVIOUS SLUR through a mouthful of donut. Alexandra suddenly gets very defensive.

ALEXANDRA (cont'd)
I did not have liposuction!

ALEXANDER
Alexandra! Go wait in the car!

ALEXANDRA
Make me, nose job.

8 CONTINUED: (2) 8

ALEXANDER
Implants.

ALEXANDRA
Penile--

Alexander STOMPS on Alexandra's foot. She yelps and goes down in pain. Alexander smiles at the girls.

ALEXANDER
So ladies. How'd our set go?

JOSIE
You'd know if you'd've been there.

ALEXANDER
Josie toes, I'm running a management company here. I can't be everywhere at once.

MELODY
Ooh, wouldn't it be cool if you could, though? I could be here ... and in the living room. And in Japan! Eating ramen!

Melody steps in and out of the kitchen, testing her theory.

VALERIE
Alexander, you have no other clients. Where else do you need to be?

ALEXANDER
On the street, spreading the Gospel of The Pussycats. Handing out flyers, working the masses, building a groundswell ...

ALEXANDRA
(standing)
Waiting on line for Du Jour tickets.

The girls look at Alexander. Come on.

ALEXANDER
It's for business! Check out the competition ... I don't even like DuJour!

They glare at him. No good. He fumbles in his pocket for his cel phone. Answers it.

8 CONTINUED: (3) 8

ALEXANDER (cont'd)
Hello? Oh hey ... uh ... man. You want a demo tape of The Pussycats? Sure, I'll hook you up, brother.
(quietly, to the girls)
Guy who books all the big clubs. Wants to hear your tape.

JOSIE
The phone didn't even ring.

ALEXANDER
(covers receiver)
On vibrate.
(into phone)
Really? I should come over now? I'll be right there.

Alexander blows the girls KISSES as he RUNS OUT of the room. Alexandra looks at the girls.

ALEXANDRA
You know he's lying.

JOSIE
You know your fly's open.

Alexandra looks down. They fly on her expensive jeans is wide open. She quickly zips.

ALEXANDRA
You guys suck.

Then, at a loss for anything else to say, she turns and flounces out after her brother.

VALERIE
Well that's perfect. Even our manager would rather hear another band.

Suddenly, Melody calls out from the living room.

MELODY (O.S.)
You guys! C'mere!!

8A INT. JOSIE'S LIVING ROOM - SAME 8A

Josie and Val rush in to see Mel fixated on MTV. A NEWS BULLETIN is on.

8A CONTINUED: 8A

SERENA ALTSHCUL (ON TV)
We have just received a confirmed report that the members of the pop group sensation Du Jour disappeared in their private jet today, vanishing from the radar forty miles east of the town of Riverdale.

The girls GASP. A photo of DU JOUR hits the screen.

SERENA ALTSHCUL (ON TV)
(CONT'D)
Authorities are still trying to determine the whereabouts of the plane, and if there are indeed any survivors. Du Jour's label, MegaRecords, has yet to release a statement, but they have released a limited-edition commemorative boxed set -- complete with a CD-ROM "History of Du Jour" -- in stores tomorrow. We will keep you posted as to any further developments in what seems to be yet another rock and roll tragedy.

Melody looks really bummed.

MELODY
Those poor boys.
(brightens)
But they didn't say they were dead! *
Remember the time you guys thought I was *
missing but I really just fell asleep in *
my closet? We can raise money for a *
search party! Hold a bake sale! *

She runs out. Josie looks at the TV. *

JOSIE
Man, that is so sad. It can all be over in a flash.

VALERIE
I know.
(beat)
At least they had a record deal.

JOSIE
We can have a record deal. But we can't just sit here waiting for it to happen. We've got to make it happen. Life's too short. We're musicians. We should be playing music.

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED: (2) 8A

Melody RETURNS with a COOKIE COOKBOOK.

VALERIE
We do play. Nobody shows. Nobody cares.

JOSIE
I care.
(newly determined)
If life gives you lemons, you make lemonade. When the going gets tough...

MELODY
The tough make lemonade!

VALERIE
What?

JOSIE
(still determined)
Never mind. Pack up your bass.

Josie grabs her guitar case and exits.

9 EXT. RIVERDALE STRIP - DAY 9

What used to be a hometown shopping street has been replaced by every CHAIN STORE in America. Starbucks, Gap, Foot Locker, all the big ones. There's barely a hint of what this place once was. Every car on the street is an SUV and all of the TEENAGERS walking by wear clothing emblazoned with BRAND LOGOS. They dart in and out of stores, buying bags full of new BRAND-NAME PRODUCTS they absolutely MUST HAVE. We follow three GIRLS into:

10 INT. MEGARECORDS MEGASTORE - DAY 10

The teenage girls come bounding into the multi-leveled store, wearing IDENTICAL BRAND NEW SHOES. They are also carrying bags of their other purchases. One of them has a MYLAR BALLOON tied to her wrist.

TEENAGE GIRL 1
I live for these pink shoes!

TEENAGE GIRL 2
They're so much cooler than our red shoes!

TEENAGE GIRL 3 *
(light bulb) *
You guys! Pink is the new red! *

They pass by WYATT, who stops the one with the mylar BALLOON. He FIXES HIS HAIR in its shiny reflection then lets her go. Then Wyatt walks up to the store's DJ. Flashes his card.

10 CONTINUED: 10

WYATT
Wyatt Frame. MegaRecords. I'm scouting the area for local talent and I was wondering if there's anyone worth hearing.

The DJ takes one side of his HEADPHONES OFF.

DJ
Saw the card, missed everything else. Start over while I change songs.

Wyatt pulls a CD from his jacket.

WYATT
Oh no wait, play this. It's the new single from Du Jour. Recorded just a few days ago, right before the -- disappearance. I'd like to ... test the reaction.

DJ
Right on.

The DJ loads the CD and speaks into his DJ MIC.

DJ (cont'd)
Check it out y'all! I've got the world premiere of the last single ever from the late great Du Jour. Just for all you right here in the store!

An excited MURMUR turns to silence as the song starts.

DU JOUR
(through store speakers)
"Du Jour 'round the world, now and forever! Flyin' so high in all kinds of weather...

As the song plays, the teenagers all immediately PERK UP.

TEENAGE GIRL 1
I love this song.

TEENAGE GIRL 2
It's their best ever.

TEENAGE GIRL 3
If I don't buy it, everyone will hate me.

They all agree, still oddly perky.

10 CONTINUED: (2) 10

TEENAGE GIRL 1
Totally. I also want orange shoes.

TEENAGE GIRL 2
Yeah. They're so much cooler than these pink shoes.

TEENAGE GIRL 3
Orange is the new pink!

The teenage girls rush back out of the store to buy even newer shoes. Two COLLEGE DUDES pass by. They also seem unnaturally enthusiastic.

COLLEGE DUDE #1
I'm sick of my Reebok sweats. I need Puma sweats.

COLLEGE DUDE #2
Yeah. And I gotta buy a six-pack of Zima.

COLLEGE DUDE #1
Dude, you don't drink.

COLLEGE DUDE #2
I think I should start.

Wyatt smiles as the boys pass. Wyatt nods at the DJ.

WYATT
Thanks. I think they responded to it quite well, actually.

A DOUR LOOKING, VERY UNSTYLISH GIRL approaches him.

UNSTYLISH GIRL
I think that song sucks. I plug my ears when crap like that comes on.

Wyatt turns to her, surprised.

WYATT
Really? But everybody else seems to like it.

10 CONTINUED: (3) 10

UNSTYLISH GIRL
That's just because they're mindless drones who will gobble up anything you tell them is cool.

WYATT
(concerned)
I see. Wow, you're really a free thinker aren't you?

She nods, proud.

WYATT (cont'd)
Well, if you don't mind, I'd love to talk to you some more. People in the recording industry always want to get the opinion of individuals like yourself. Find out what you think we're doing wrong.

UNSTYLISH GIRL
(laughs)
Yeah, right. How much time do you have?

WYATT
As much as you want.

She looks surprised as he leads her up the stairs at the back of the store. Wyatt WHISPERS into his CUFF, Secret Service-style.

11 INT. STORAGE ROOM - DAY 11

Wyatt leads the girl past the LARGE BOXES of CDs to a large doorway. He SLIDES THE DOOR OPEN for her, like a gentleman.

WYATT
This must be my lucky day. A real non-conformist. I'm so interested to hear what else you have to say.

She turns around, happy, as she walks through the doorway and out into the back alley. Out of nowhere a WHITE, UNMARKED VAN screeches up, two MEN IN SUITS jump out and PULL THE GIRL INTO THE VAN. It speeds away. Wyatt calls after the van.

WYATT (CONT'D)
Really? Is that so?

His CELL PHONE RINGS. He answers it.

WYATT (cont'd)
Cheerio.

11 CONTINUED: 11

FIONA (O.S)
I'm waiting ...

11A INT. FIONA'S OFFICE - SAME 11A

WE ONLY SEE THE HAND of this fabulous woman, but you can tell she's short on patience and long on attitude. This is FIONA. She impatiently taps her manicured nails on the desk by her high-tech PHONE.

WYATT (THRU PHONE)
I -- I'm on it Fiona, I am, it's just you wouldn't believe this place. It's a cultural wasteland, I mean they only have four Starbucks!

FIONA
(cutting him off)
Stop making excuses and get your ass back here, with a band.

WYATT (THRU PHONE)
Tomorrow. You'll have a band first thing in the morning, I swear.

FIONA
Then you'll still have a job. Maybe.

She SLAMS THE RECEIVER DOWN.—

12 OMITTED 12

13 OMITTED 13

14 EXT. RIVERDALE STRIP - NIGHT 14

WORKMEN are DISMANTLING a LARGE DUJOUR BILLBOARD that hangs over the street. They lower a SECTION that reads, "#1 BAND IN THE WORLD!"

Below them, IN FRONT OF A STORE, Josie and the girls get ready to play (Josie and Val are going acoustic -- Mel's got her snare). People on the street glance at them as they walk by.

JOSIE
Pussycats unplugged. Here we go.

MELODY
(counts off)
One! Two! Three!

14 CONTINUED: 14

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
What do you think you're doing?

The ANGRY SHOP OWNER(40's) has come outside. He looks at the girls.

SHOP OWNER
You can't play here. I have things to sell! They're new! And orange!

JOSIE
So?

SHOP OWNER
So? Look at you! You're --
(eyes them up and down)
Who's gonna come into my store with you outside?!

Val steps up, anger rising.

VALERIE
Last I checked it was a free country.

SHOP OWNER
Last I checked I was calling the cops!

He storms back into his store.

15 OMITTED

16 OMITTED 16

17 EXT. WYATT'S NAVIGATOR - NIGHT 17

Wyatt grumbles as he drives through Riverdale.

WYATT
(imitating Fiona)
Find a band, Wyatt ... She should find herself her own band.

17A EXT. RIVERDALE STRIP - NIGHT 17A

The girls glance back at the store, then scoff. *

JOSIE *
No way he's calling the cops. *

Then we HEAR: The familiar wail of a SIREN. And approaching * FLASHING RED AND BLUE LIGHTS. The girls look at each other. *

JOSIE (cont'd) *
Run! *

They grab their instruments and take off running. *

17B EXT. WYATT'S NAVIGATOR - NIGHT 17B

Wyatt drives on, angry.

17B CONTINUED: 17B

WYATT
This is impossible. Where the hell am I supposed to find a --

He turns a corner.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. RIVERDALE STREET - NIGHT 18

The girls dart into the street, holding their instruments.

SCREEECH! Where they almost get hit by a NAVIGATOR. They freeze, terrified, as the car stops inches away.

Inside the jeep, Wyatt stares out in front of him.

WYATT'S POV: Three hot girls, holding instruments ...

Just as another CAR'S HEADLIGHTS SWEEP around to LIGHT THEM, and a BUS BACKFIRES out a PLUME of BACKGROUND SMOKE. And just as the sign-dismantling WORKMEN pass behind them, carrying the piece of the DuJour billboard that reads: "THE #1 BAND IN THE WORLD!"

Back inside the car, Wyatt quickly pulls a blank CD JEWEL CASE from his jacket. HOLDS IT UP TO FRAME THE GIRLS -- -- it's spectacular. A CHOIR SINGS "ODE TO JOY".

Wyatt quickly turns down "ODE TO JOY" on his stereo and leans out his window. Smiles, charming.

WYATT
Hello, ladies. Wyatt Frame, Megarecords.

He holds out a SLICK BUSINESS CARD.

19 INT. STARBUCKS - NIGHT 19

Josie, Val and Melody sit at a table with Wyatt.

WYATT
Well. I can't tell you how pleased I am * to be at a table with The Pussyhats. *

19 CONTINUED: 19

JOSIE
Pussycats.

Wyatt stops, confused, but quickly recovers.

WYATT
Of course. Of course. That explains why you're not wearing any.
(off their confused looks)
Hats. Anyway, the point is I speak for everyone at the label when I say we'd love to have you sign with MegaRecords.

Suddenly Alexander and Alexandra burst into Starbucks.

ALEXANDER
Wait! Don't sign anything! Alexander's here!

WYATT
Who are you?

ALEXANDER
Alexander Cabot. I'm the Pussycat's manager.

WYATT
Well then I guess you're entitled to fifteen percent of whatever they make.

ALEXANDER
Sign everything!

Alexander sits down next to Wyatt, his new best friend. Alexandra nuzzles up to Wyatt's other side.

ALEXANDRA
(flirty)
I'm his sister, Alexandra. Love the accent.
(slight British accent)
I used to summer on the continent. Fancy a snog? *

Josie's trying to keep up.

JOSIE
Wait, hold up. You want to sign us? You've never even heard us play.

19 CONTINUED: (2) 19

WYATT
Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you were in a rock band that wanted to sign with a major record label. I guess I was wrong...

He starts to stand. Everybody calls out.

JOSIE/VAL/MELODY/ALEXANDER
No!

Wyatt sits. Smirks.

JOSIE
I just didn't know it could happen this fast!

WYATT
Well that's the music biz for you. If you wait for it to slow down it just might pass you by. Look what happened to the Beastie Boys.

19 CONTINUED: (3) 19

VALERIE
(confused)
But they're huge stars.

WYATT
(super-confident)
I know.

The girls look a little perplexed. Josie pushes her chair back and eyes Val.

JOSIE
'Scuse me, I gotta ... ladies' room.

VALERIE
Yeah. Me too.

MELODY *
I went before we left. *
(to Wyatt) *
You know, before you leave the house you *
should always try. Even if you don't *
have to -- *

Val YANKS Melody away from the table. Wyatt eyes them, wary.

19A INT. STARBUCKS BATHROOM - NIGHT 19A

The smallest bathroom ever. The girls lean up against the sink.

JOSIE
Okay, this is crazy.

The door swings OPEN. It's Alexandra.

ALEXANDRA
Gotta gloss!

VALERIE *
It won't hide the mustache. *

Alexander enters. Now it's officially claustrophobic. *

JOSIE *
Alexander! *

ALEXANDER
Are you having a band meeting?! If it's a band meeting, I should be here!

JOSIE
It's a ladies' room!

(CONTINUED)

19A CONTINUED: 19A

ALEXANDER
Nothing I haven't seen before.

Val digs in her bag.

VALERIE
Anyone have change for a tampon?

ALEXANDER
(quickly)
I'll be outside.

He leaves. Alexandra remains, pretending to look busy by the mirror. The girls have no choice.

VALERIE
How cool is this? MegaRecords!

JOSIE
And you don't think any of this is off?

MELODY
Like what?

JOSIE
Well like that Wyatt guy out there, for one.

MELODY
Oh yeah. Like how he ordered a triple cappucino but scooped off all the foam? Why not just get espresso? Plus how he keeps folding his napkin like he's afraid he doesn't have any real friends, just people who wanna use him because he's some big music guy? *

The girls consider this.

JOSIE
Yeah, but I was talking more about the whole record contract thing. It's super sudden --

VALERIE
But you said it! We had to get out of the house and make things happen for ourselves. Well, we did!

JOSIE
I know, I know! I just think we should think about it for a second ...

19A CONTINUED: (2) 19A

The girls are all quiet. A beat. Then they all exchange looks and SCREAM. They hug each other excitedly. Do a Pussycat handshake. Alexandra looks jealous.

ALEXANDRA
Gee, how exciting for you Josie. You'll get to go away and make a record. And poor Alan M. will have to stay behind in Riverdale. All alone ... With me.

She smiles an evil smile. Josie glares at her.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. PRIVATE JET - DAY 20

A jet similar to the one that carried DU JOUR streaks through the sky.

ALAN M. (V.O.)
I can't believe they let you fly me to the city with you ...

21 INT. PRIVATE JET - DAY 21

The whole gang (Josie, Val, Melody, Alan M, Alexander, Alexandra) is flying in style. Wyatt is looking at himself in a mirror up f[illegible], holding up different TIES in front of his shirt, seeing which one is more flattering.

Josie sits beside Alan M. He looks out the window, impressed.

ALAN M.
You know what this means? They think you're gonna be huge!

JOSIE
(whispers)
I had to tell them you're my guitar tech. Shhh!

She glances towards the back of the plane at Alexandra, who steams. Alexander is sitting next to his sister, reading "THE OPERATOR: THE DAVID GEFFEN STORY".

ALEXANDER
I still don't see why <u>you</u> had to come along.

Alexandra stares wistfully at Alan M.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: 21

ALEXANDRA
I'm here because I was in the comic book.

ALEXANDER
What?

ALEXANDRA
Nothing.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2) 21

Val and Mel are lounging on two plush reclining seats. Josie plops down on Val's lap.

VALERIE
Oof. What's up, fatty?

JOSIE
(pinching her)
Shut up.

MELODY
You know how people always say "This is the life"? I think this is when they say it.

They laugh.

VALERIE
Private plane ...

JOSIE
Record deal ...

MELODY
(fixated on the AIR NOZZLE)
Air!

Val pulls her WALLET from her purse. Opens to show it's empty.

VALERIE
Loads of cash ...
(looks)
Oops. Scratch that. Still poor.

Val pulls something out of the wallet.

VALERIE (cont'd)
But at least I won't need this anymore. Riverdale Muni Buss Pass.

She looks at it and laughs.

VALERIE (cont'd)
God, this picture.

21 CONTINUED: (3) 21

Josie takes out her own BUS PASS.

JOSIE
I love this picture!

VALERIE
Yeah, cause you look good in it. I look like a broccoli. Or the Keebler Tree. Lil' elves makin' cookies in my hair ...

MELODY
(looking at her own pass)
You look great. You know, this is the only bus pass in Muni history with three people in the picture.

JOSIE
(quietly)
S'not my fault you both jumped in mine.

VALERIE
(laughing)
Oh yeah right! You both jumped in mine!

They dissolve into laughter. Josie holds her bus pass up.

JOSIE
Y'know what? We should keep these. Remind us where we came from.

MELODY *
My parents told me I came from the baby * patch. It's a magical field where * mommies and daddies go when they wanna * have a baby. They look for the * prettiest one they can find, and then * pick them like flowers! *

She nods. It's true. *

JOSIE
Look -- let's promise something. Right here. That no matter what happens, if we become huge stars -- or if we wind up on one of those VH-1 specials where we're walking on the beach all bald and sad music is playing but we lie and say we're much happier *not* being huge stars?

Val and Melody NOD.

21 CONTINUED: (4) 21

JOSIE (cont'd)
That we'll always be friends. Friends first, and a band second.

VALERIE
Friends first.

MELODY
Friends first.

JOSIE
Swear on your bus pass.

VAL & MEL
I swear on my buss pass.

They laugh together. Josie leans in to her friends.

JOSIE
Okay, real stuff? Anyone like, majorly disappointed here? I mean, I always heard if you went on an airplane they gave a little bag of free peanuts.

Mel and Val nods. It sucks. That's when WOMAN walks by with a TOWEL and a BOTTLE of LOTION.

MASSEUSE
Can I offer any of you a full body massage?

GIRLS
(still disappointed)
Nah.

The masseuse moves on, passing Wyatt, who shakes his head and exits into the cockpit.

22 INT. COCKPIT - DAY 22

Wyatt enters the cockpit and shuts the door behind him. The pilot starts STRAPPING ON HIS CHUTE. Wyatt waves him off.

WYATT
No, it's all right, Lex.
(smiles)
We're not gonna have any problems with these girls.

We PUSH IN on him a bit as he laughs. A ROCKING GUITAR LICK takes us into a MONTAGE:

23 EXT. THE CITY - NIGHT 23

A NEW UPBEAT JOSIE SONG KICKS IN as we cut to various SHOTS of THE CITY. Bright lights, huge buildings, hip people ... Everything's glamorous and full of style. But even for a large city, there's an inordinate amount of ADVERTISING. It seems as if every available space is being used to hawk a product. Like one huge, new TIMES SQUARE. And tons of THEME STORES. Hard Rock Cafe. Niketown. MTV Store ...

We WHIP down to find the whole gang standing by a LARGE FOUNTAIN. They look up and point at the sights surrounding them in wonder. Wyatt arrives and ushers them into a nearby building. The JOHN FRIEDA SALON...

- The girls are wearing smocks and getting their hair WASHED at sinks. CLOSE ON: HIGHLIGHTS being applied, SCISSORS snipping away at hair, BLOW DRYERS blowing at max speed.

- The girls dance around the fountain. Various VENDORS and a number of PEDESTRIANS stop and stare.

- A HUGE MAKEUP KIT is opened. LOTS OF BRAND NAME PRODUCT. CLOSE ON: SHADOWS being swiped on, LASHES being curled, LIPGLOSS being applied.

- The girls are IN the fountain, dancing. A small CROWD has formed. COPS arrive and PULL THE GIRLS OUT.

- CLOTHING RACKS are rolled into a room. LABELS galore. STYLISTS hold clothes, looking for the girls' approval. The Pussycats eye them, then quickly go about 'personalizing' the outfits -- attacking them with SCISSORS and safety pins ... The stylists look on in horror, but the girls look psyched, trying on the improved outfits.

- Josie and the Pussycats, the COPS, STREET VENDORS and PEDESTRIANS are now in a HUGE KICK LINE in front of the fountain.

- The girls exit onto the city street. If possible, they're even foxier in this new incarnation -- cool haircuts, fresh makeup and stylin' wardrobes. They appraise one another excitedly.

END MONTAGE.

24 EXT. CITY STREET - SAME 24

Wyatt comes up behind them, ready to usher them into a waiting LIMO.

24 CONTINUED:

WYATT
Ready, glamour girls?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2) 24

Just then, Josie looks up and stops, surprised.

JOSIE
Whoa ...

They look up to see a MASSIVE BILLBOARD being PAINTED on the side of the building (it's about three quarters of the way finished). It's JOSIE'S FACE, smiling down on the city. "TOMMY HILFIGER INTRODUCES MEGARECORDS' JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS!"

JOSIE (CONT'D)
Jeez. That's so ... huge.

WYATT
This is just the beginning.

Josie looks up at her huge face.

JOSIE
But are you sure you should be putting that up already? I mean, we haven't even recorded anything yet ... What if you don't like it?
(deeper realization)
What if nobody likes it?

WYATT
Oh I wouldn't worry about that. Besides, if you screw up, we'll just put somebody else up there!

He LAUGHS uproariously. Josie swallows. She climbs into the limo, uneasy. Val and Mel stand there, still looking at the billboard.

VALERIE
They got our name wrong.

WYATT
Hmm?

VALERIE
We're not 'Josie and the Pussycats'. We're just "The Pussycats".

WYATT
Josie's the singer. The public needs someone out front to identify with. Trust me, our studies show that bands with the word "and" in their name sell twice as many records as those that don't.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (3) 24

VALERIE
What about The Beatles? Or the Rolling Stones? Or the Backstreet Boys?

WYATT
If you want to split hairs. But think about it. Are you more interested in a band called simply 'The Pussycats' ... or ... are you more likely to buy a CD, read a comic, watch a cartoon, go see a movie about a trio of luscious ladies called JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS?!

Melody looks at him.

MELODY
It does kinda have a ring to it.

Satisfied, Wyatt leads Melody to the car. Val is still looking up at the billboard. TWO TINY SILHOUETTES of girls in EARS AND TAILS playing BASS and DRUMS.

VALERIE
So, are the little ones supposed to be Mel and me? 'Cause I don't even have a face ...

Val turns to Wyatt ...

24 CONTINUED: (4) 24

But he's GONE. He's in the LIMO with the girls, which is actually PULLING AWAY from the curb. Val panics, calling out after it.

VALERIE (cont'd)
HEY!

The limo SCREECHES to a STOP. The window ROLLS DOWN and Wyatt pops his head out.

WYATT
Oh! Sorry, Val. We had no idea you weren't in here.

Val hurries to the limo, glancing down at her ANGER MANAGEMENT book in her hand.

VALERIE
My fists are not my friends...

25 EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT 25

From ACROSS THE STREET, we watch the limo drive off. We're watching OVER THE SHOULDER OF A DARK FIGURE. After the car has vanished into traffic, the Figure LIMPS OMINOUSLY AWAY.

26 INT. GYM - DAY 26

Wyatt flies in and out of frame, doing crunches on a GRAVITY BAR as he talks on his CEL-HEADSET.

WYATT
What did I tell you, Fiona? They're perfect. Only girls show up for the boy bands. But this way guys'll come out to see the hot chicks in tight leopard outfits, and girls will still show up because they'll idolize these babes.

WIDER -- to reveal TWO MUSCULAR TRAINERS are pushing Wyatt up and down on the bar -- he's doing nothing.

WYATT (cont'd)
Imagine Christina Aguilera times three. Except one of 'em's really tan.
(tries for a new analogy)
Or TLC with two white chicks. Oh, or Hole, without the skinny blonde guy and Courtney Love's got red hair instead of --

27 INT. MEGA-RECORDS OFFICE - DAY 27

We see Fiona again from behind.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: 27

FIONA
(cuts him off, annoyed)
Wyatt. I get it without the stupid analogies.

A CONSERVATIVE LOOKING MAN in a grey suit pokes his head in Fiona's door. He points at his watch. She waves him in.

FIONA (CONT'D)
Put them in the studio tomorrow. We'll talk later. The feds are here with some foreigners and I've got to give them the tour.

WYATT
You won't be disappointed.

FIONA
I'd better not be. We can't afford another Du Jour disaster.

As she hangs up, the man in the suit walks into her office, followed by a serious INTERNATIONAL-LOOKING GROUP (they look like a MODEL U.N.). These guys are definitely not tourists. FIONA SWIVELS in her chair to face them. It's the first time we see her face. She's very beautiful, and deadly serious.

FIONA (cont'd)
Welcome, gentlemen. Up until now our mutual friend from the state department has shown you our "legitimate" operations. And I'm sure you're wondering why Agent Kelly and the United States government would be paying so much money to what appears to be a record company. Well I'm about to show you why...

She FLIPS OPEN the top of a MUSIC AWARD sitting on her desk, to reveal a RED BUTTON in the base. She PRESSES THE BUTTON and suddenly THE ENTIRE ROOM JOLTS LIGHTLY and then starts to MOVE. DESCENDING like a GIANT ELEVATOR. The view of the city slides up out of view...revealing A WAREHOUSE SIZED ROOM. The office STOPS AT THE FLOOR LEVEL and Fiona opens the door to the WAR ROOM. The Delegates peer over her shoulders, intrigued.

FIONA (cont'd)
This is what our operation really does. From this command center we control the most influential demographic of the population.

27 CONTINUED: (2) 27

She walks out on to the catwalk. The Delegates follow. AGENT KELLY smiles proudly. The look down on a WAR ROOM of sorts. But on the "BIG BOARD", instead of MAPS and SATELLITE IMAGES, there are MUSIC VIDEOS, FASHION SHOWS, and clips of famous PERSONALITIES. The VARIOUS TEAMS OF WORKERS BELOW scurry between work stations, TRADING VALUABLE BITS OF INFORMATION.

FIONA (CONT'D)
We decide everything from what clothes are in style to what slang is en vogue...

Below them a WOMAN shows a NEWLY DESIGNED OUTFIT to the FASHION TEAM (they all wear FBI STYLE WINDBREAKERS with the word "FASHION" on the back).

JUMPSUIT WOMAN
I'm thinking feathered tank top with matching low-slung pants. Kind of "Buffy" meets "Chicken Run".

OTHER FASHION GUY
(light bulb)
Feathers are the new rhinestones!

The FASHION TEAM applauds. Then, over with the "SLANG" team:

SLANG TEAM LEADER
The new word for "cool" will be "jerkin'." As in "Those new Hilfiger jeans are totally jerkin'!"

SLANG TEAM MEMBER
I like it. It sounds dirty. Let's have Will Smith start saying it in public.

They take notes. Fiona leads the group down a SPIRAL STAIRCASE to the floor.

FIONA
From what TV shows are popular ...

They pass by the appropriate teams at work:

TV TEAM LEADER
Can we squeeze another year out of "Friends"?

TV TEAM MEMBER
We'll have to kill David Schwimmer's movie career.

OTHER TV TEAM MEMBER
Done and done.

27 CONTINUED: (3) 27

FIONA
.. To which obviously straight celebrities are rumored to be gay.

GAY RUMOR TEAM MEMBER #1
Keanu Reeves!

GAY RUMOR TEAM MEMBER #2
Justin Timberlake!

GAY RUMOR TEAM MEMBER #3
Bryant Gumble!

The Rumor Team stops and looks at Guy #3. A beat.

GAY RUMOR TEAM MEMBER #1
I'd buy that.

They go back to shouting out celebs. Fiona leads the delegate group over to the VIDEO WALL.

FIONA
But how, you may ask, can our operation be so effective? Sure, these kids have brains like play-dough, just waiting to be molded into shape, but still, something else has to be going on, right?
(to a delegate)
The Chinese guy knows what I'm talking about.
(CHINESE DELEGATE flashes a thumbs-up)
To answer some of your questions we've produced a short educational film. LIGHTS!!!

The lights dim and the Delegates sit down in the IMAX STYLE SEATS that have been rolled in front of the VIDEO WALL.

ONSCREEN: We see a *DINGY DOWNTOWN DETECTIVE'S OFFICE*. *CHRIS* ROCK sits across from an ornery-looking POLICE CHIEF.

CHRIS ROCK
Dammit, Edmonds! I'm tellin' you I'm gonna crack this case -- with or without my badge!!

He slams his BADGE down on the chief's desk. A dramatic RAP/ROCK CUE kicks in as Chris stares the chief down. Then we hear:

OFFSCREEN VOICE
Annnd cut!

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (4) 27

Chris SWIVELS his chair to face the camera as we WIDEN to reveal we're in a SOUNDSTAGE. The office is just a cheap set. In fact, all of the movie equipment and crew looks a little low rent to be for an actual film. Chris stands and is handed a COKE. He takes a sip and looks at us.

27 CONTINUED: (6) 27

CHRIS ROCK
Hi. I'm Chris Rock. And I'm here to talk to you about something very important.

Chris walks over to a CD PLAYER and stops the MUSIC.

CHRIS ROCK (CONT'D)
Rock and Roll music. Now it's as American as apple pie and color TV. But not so long ago, it was considered dangerous. A bad influence on the young people of this nation.

Now the monitors on the video wall change around Chris. Showing footage of early ROCK AND ROLL ACTS. And SCREAMING TEENS.

CHRIS ROCK (CONT'D)
In fact, ever since the dawn of this new style of music in the early fifties, after the end of World War two, when we kicked some serious ass...

The video wall switches to a CARTOON image of a WWII BOMBER DROPPING BOMBS and then cheering GI's in Times Square. The Japanese Delegate looks shocked. The German guy laughs. Agent Kelly quickly grabs the remote and FAST FORWARDS. *

AGENT KELLY
Heh. Heh. The good part's coming up.

He plays the video again: We see more footage of MUSICIANS OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS: WOODSTOCK. KIDS SCREAMING at the BEATLES on Ed Sullivan. The SEX PISTOLS. N'SYNC ...

CHRIS ROCK
But eventually we realized that this rabid obsession with rock music could be used to our advantage. All the government has to do is plant subliminal messages inside the music to control the thought patterns of the youth of America.

We see a CLEAN CUT fifties guy and girl LISTENING to a HI-FI. The WORDS "SUBLIMINAL MESSAGES" EMANATE FROM THE SPEAKERS in ANIMATED WAVES. The waves hit the teens and suddenly their EYES TURN TO SPINNING ANIMATED SPIRALS. They SMILE as their eyes spin, hypnotized.

27 CONTINUED: (7) 27

CHRIS ROCK (cont'd)
Unlike the adult mind, which is already loyal to certain brands and styles, kids have an unlimited amount of space to fill with new products and fads, thus creating an entire demographic of eager consumers.

We see an animated CROSS SECTION of an ADULT MIND. The space is filled with all kinds of PRODUCTS: DRINKS, SHOES, MAGAZINES ...etc. We then compare with the CROSS SECTION of our HAPPY TEEN'S MIND: BLANK SPACE for the taking!

CHRIS ROCK (cont'd)
If we constantly change fads and fashions, teens feel compelled to keep up by buying new clothes and music and basically anything they think adults won't like ...

We see hundreds of BRAND NAMES appear and disappear on the screens, jockeying for space in the teenager's empty brain cavity.

CHRIS ROCK (cont'd)
So all the while, they think they're being cool and rebellious -- but they're really keeping our entire economy afloat!

The screens all turn to images of MONEY. Intercut with smiling teenagers. The center screen cuts back to Chris.

CHRIS ROCK (CONT'D)
So god bless the teenager and rock music. And god bless the United States of America, the most ass kickin' country in the world!

He toasts us with his COKE as two girls in bikinis come in and give Chris a BIG KISS. An AMERICAN FLAG unfurls behind them. He winks at the camera.

On screen we see credits: "CHRIS ROCK'S WARDROBE BY BANANA REPUBLIC", "COKE -- IT'S THE REAL THING".

JAPANESE DELEGATE
Where can we sign up?

27 CONTINUED: (7) 27

FIONA
Right on the dotted line.

An assistant hands out CONTRACTS, the Delegates start to sign. But the German Delegate looks concerned.

GERMAN DELEGATE
But how can you control de rock bands? Vat if dey find out about ze hidden messages in deir music?

Fiona hits another button on the remote. The video wall fills with images of ROCK STARS. All DEAD or WASHED UP: Elvis, Buddy Holly, Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin, Keith Moon, Hammer, Milli Vanilli, Leif Garrett, Tiffany, George Michael, Billy Ray Cyrus, Cat Stevens and many more... *

FIONA
Ever wonder why so many rock stars die in plane crashes? Overdose on drugs? We've been doing this a long time, gentlemen. If they start to get too curious our options are endless. Bankruptcies, shocking scandals, religious conversion. We've created a highly rated TV show just to explain what happens to these people.

ON THE VIDEO WALL -- images from various VH1 BEHIND THE MUSIC episodes pop up.

SRI-LANKAN DELEGATE
(subtitled)
I loved the one on Leif Garrett.

The German Delegate looks satisfied, joining the others in a round of APPLAUSE.

Fiona LAUGHS a great villain laugh. The Delegates join in. The VIDEO WALL fills up with images of GOLD RECORDS. We PUSH IN to the wall of records to reveal ...

28 OMITTED 28 *

28 CONTINUED: 28

29 INT. RECORDING STUDIO - DAY 29

The girls enter the studio and GASP. This is high-tech. Miles away from the girls' garage.

JOSIE
Wow.

Melody pushes the FOAM SOUNDPROOF WALLS.

MELODY
The walls are mushy!

Melody mushes up against the wall.

MELODY (cont'd)
Ooooh.

WYATT
We brought some equipment in. I assume it's all to your liking.

The girls rush over to inspect their brand new gear. Josie lifts up her glossy white guitar.

JOSIE
Oh my god -- this is brand new!

VALERIE
Can we play instruments that aren't used? Think we'll know how?

They laugh.

29 CONTINUED: 29

MELODY
I like this. It's got shiny knobs.

Melody is turning the KNOBS on an ODD ILLUMINATED CONSOLE. Wyatt rushes over to her. Lifting her hands away.

WYATT
Oh no no no. That we never touch. It's only the most expensive piece of equipment in the studio.

The girls wander over to get a look. Every wire in the studio seems to run through this thing.

WYATT (cont'd)
The MegaSound 8000. Although the name sounds rather ominous, it's actually just a high-tech processor.

VALERIE
How does it work?

Wyatt looks at her, suspicious.

WYATT
Why do you need to know that?

VALERIE
What is it a *big secret* or something?

The girls laugh and tease Wyatt. "Oooh. Wyatt's got a secret machine. He *loves* it ..." Wyatt looks nervous. Then quickly covers.

WYATT
It's not a secret. Here, I'll show you.

29 CONTINUED: (2) 29

He FLIPS some switches. The machine hums to life.

WYATT (cont'd)
Girls, play a little something, would you?

The girls pick up their instruments and break into the first two lines of "3 SMALL WORDS".

JOSIE
(singing)
It took six whole hours, and five long days ...

They sound great. GRUNGY and RAW. Wyatt motions for them to stop.

WYATT
Perfect. Now it'll just take a moment.

He fiddles with a few DIALS on the MEGASOUND. Waits as the PROCESSOR HUMS and WHIRS. A small light turns GREEN.

WYATT (cont'd)
Now I'll play it back for you with the MegaSound.

He hits a button, and the girls SONG PLAYS again. But this time it sounds VERY DIFFERENT. It suddenly sounds a little more like a POP SONG. THICK PRODUCTION -- complete with SYNTH EFFECTS and BACKUP VOCALS.

The girls look surprised.

VALERIE
Is that us?

JOSIE
It sounds so big. And ... different.

WYATT
Of course it does. You've never heard your music professionally produced before.

The girls still look confused.

WYATT (cont'd)
It's kind of like when you hear your voice on an answering machine. That sounds different, right?

29 CONTINUED: (3) 29

MELODY
I want a Big Mac.

They all turn to Melody, surprised.

VALERIE
What? Mel, you've a vegetarian.

MELODY
I know. But I suddenly want one. Maybe on the way back to the hotel? *

VALERIE
Okay. As long as we can swing by a Foot Locker, too. I'm dying for a pair of old-school Tretorns.

JOSIE
Jerkin'. Tretorns are the new Adidas. *

They all look around. What's going on. Wyatt intervenes.

WYATT
All this talk about food and shopping! Should I drop you girls back at the Riverdale Mall or are you ready to make a record?

The girls look at each other. What were they thinking?

CLOSE ON: INSTRUMENTS PLUGGED IN. MIC STANDS BEING RAISED. VOLUME METERS RISING and FALLING during a check. The BIG MIXING BOARD being tweaked.

We see the GIRLS, wearing their ears and tails, instruments at the ready, huddled over Melody's drum kit. They finish a Pussycat Handshake.

JOSIE
This is it. Let's put it on wax.

They smile at each other, full of excitement and confidence. Melody COUNTS OFF with her STICKS.

MELODY
ONE! TWO! THREE!

And the band RIPS INTO THE SONG. They sound awesome. Wyatt looks impressed from the booth. He bobs his head along with the music. Alexander gyrates to the music like he's in a club. Alexandra rolls her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (4) 29

Meanwhile the girls are kicking ass and they know it. They look like they're having tons of fun playing music together. Again, WHEN THE GIRLS ARE PLAYING IN THE STUDIO, THE MUSIC SOUNDS GRUNGY AND RAW.

CLOSE ON: the TAPE ROLLING in the high tech reel to reel. We see the volume meters pinning. We then pan over to the MEGASOUND. We see the LIGHT TURN GREEN ...

As the SONG CONTINUES, we start a MONTAGE:

- CDs being pressed in mass quantities, moving down an assembly line. But the song is starting to CHANGE. It's becoming more POPPY and HEAVILY PRODUCED.

- The girls in a GLAMOROUS PHOTO SHOOT. Lots of CLOTHES. Lots of LABELS. Lots of poses. Wyatt watches happily. Alexandra tries to sneak into one of the photos, but they push her out. The photographer (another cameo) clicks away and the girls look hot -- finally in NEW sexy leopard outfits. FREEZE ON ONE OF THE PHOTOS. It becomes ...

- The cover of the CD. We see the CDs being UNPACKED FROM BOXES and LOADED on to the SHELVES OF A CD STORE.

- The girls are making a video. They're playing on the deck of a SPACESHIP. In outer space. Josie reaches up and pulls down -- the front of a monitor. We pull back to reveal ...

- A MUSIC STORE (the video is playing on ~~an~~ in store monitor). TEENS come over and START BUYING the CD.

NEW JOSIE FAN
This is the best CD ever!

OTHER FAN
Yeah, and I want some Gatorade!

NEW JOSIE FAN
Gatorade is the new Snapple!

- We see the BILLBOARD CHARTS. Josie and the Pussycats are at #86. They begin their CLIMB (LITERALLY -- WE SEE GIRLS PHYSICALLY CLIMBING UP A GIANT BILLBOARD CHART)

- Kids DOWNLOAD the single onto MP3s.

- A FAN recognizes the girls on the street and asks for an autograph. The girls are flattered and thrilled.

- A GAP store starts displaying a rack of LEOPARD VESTS.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (5) 29

- The BILLBOARD CHARTS. The band has climbed to #32. They look down and take a breather there.

- FIONA is reading her copy of Billboard. She grins evilly.

- We see workers unpacking boxes, loaded with the PAPERBACK NOVELIZATION of Josie and the Pussycats. Followed by Josie and the Pussycats CANDY, ACTION FIGURES and HAIR ACCESSORIES.

- A few YOUNG GIRLS recognize Melody on the street. They POINT AND SCREAM. Unsure of what to do, Melody POINTS AND SCREAMS back. They stand there, pointing and screaming at each other.

- The CHARTS. Josie and the Pussycats are climbing to #7.

- Stores are putting up SOLD OUT signs in the Josie display.

- Josie and the Pussycats grace the cover of ROLLING STONE.

- The girls just make it into a LIMO, surrounded by SCREAMING FANS. The limo speeds away as the fans try to chase it.

- The charts. The girls reach #1 !!!

PULL BACK to see the CHART in the MAGAZINE. Pull back ever further to reveal the GIRLS READING IT. The music ends and they SQUEAL and HUG EACH OTHER. They can't believe it.

30 INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY 30

In the corner, Alexandra stares at a copy of Billboard.

ALEXANDRA
This must be a misprint.

Alexander POPS a bottle of CHAMPAGNE. He's wearing a WHITE PUFF DADDY SUIT, full-on platinum chains and sunglasses. The girls are still hugging and leaping around. Wyatt is standing in the corner, amused. The girls try to calm themselves down. Wyatt stands in the corner, amused. He checks his PROFILE in a nearby mirror.

JOSIE
Okay. Okay. Okay, wait. Doesn't anybody else think it's kinda strange that this all happened in like a week?

Wyatt suddenly looks nervous.

VALERIE
(still giddy)
No ...

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: 30

JOSIE
And how all of a sudden we're on TV and in magazines and we've never even played in front of an audience?

VALERIE
(thinking about it)
Yeah. That is strange.

Wyatt backs away, towards the PHONE, about to reach for it.

MELODY
Yeah. And you know what else is strange? Sometimes I look at my toes and I see a family of astronauts all lined up in a row.

Josie and Val look at Mel for a beat. Then they look at their toes. She's right. Melody makes the sound of a rocket and lifts her foot slowly up, up, up ... Josie and Val watch, nodding. Wyatt lifts the receiver ...

VALERIE
(back to Josie)
Okay. But maybe this isn't strange at all. I mean, isn't this how it always happens? Some band you've never heard of comes out of nowhere and suddenly gets huge for no apparent reason. Think about it. I mean, maybe it only seems strange because this time ... the number one band is <u>us</u>!

They look at each other and realize it's true. They're the number one band. They start SCREAMING and HUGGING again. Wyatt hangs up the phone, relieved. There's a KNOCK at the door. We hear GIGGLING on the other side. Josie opens the door... to find the LAUGHING GIRLS from Riverdale. But now they're dressed in head to toe PUSSYCAT. They POINT AT JOSIE and SCREAM, JUMPING UP AND DOWN.

JOSIE
Who are you?

Mel goes to the door, sees the girls. They SCREAM HARDER.

LAUGHING GIRL #1
Oh my god! It's Melody!!!

MELODY
This keeps happening to me.

VALERIE
We know them!

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2) 30

JOSIE
(realizing)
Ew! We do!

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (3) 30

The girls squeal.

LAUGHING GIRL #2
Oh my god! We love you! We're your biggest fans!

JOSIE
No, you hate us.

LAUGHING GIRL #1
Are you crazy?! You're our new all time favorite band of all time!

LAUGHING GIRL #2
Josie and the Pussycats are the new DuJour!

LAUGHING GIRL #1
Wanna see our pussycat tattoos?!

The laughing girls turn around and start PULLING DOWN THEIR PANTS. Freaked, Josie SLAMS the door SHUT. From behind the door we hear:

LAUGHING GIRL #1 (OS) (CONT'D)
We're sleeping out here!

JOSIE
Okay. That was way too weird.

Wyatt steps over quickly.

WYATT
Weird? Girls, what's the point of being famous if the people you hated in high school don't want to kiss your ass? You're lucky.
(MORE)

30 CONTINUED: (4) 30

WYATT (cont'd)
Most people have to wait till their ten-year reunion for revenge like that.

Wyatt looks off, suddenly a little bitter. The girls look at him oddly. Wyatt quickly snaps out of it.

WYATT (cont'd)
Look, you're just going to have to get used to people throwing themselves at you. Speaking of throwing ...

He reaches into his jacket.

WYATT (cont'd)
Fiona, the head of MegaRecords is throwing a huge party tonight in your honor! To celebrate all things Josie!

Josie looks a little uncomfortable. He hands an invitation to Josie and Mel.

VALERIE
Uh ... Wyatt? Where's mine?

Wyatt searches his pockets. Nothing.

WYATT
That's odd. Well, why don't you come along too? There's always room for one more.

Alexandra and Alexander step up.

ALEXANDRA
How 'bout us?

WYATT
No.

Josie looks at her invite. It's got a big picture of her face on it.

JOSIE
(trying to stay positive)
A party. That's ... kinda cool.

WYATT
Yes, but is it more kinda cool than playing a stadium concert?
(covers his mouth)
Oops. I promised Fiona she could tell you.

30 CONTINUED: (5) 30

JOSIE
We're playing a stadium concert?

WYATT
(the cat's out of the bag)
This weekend.

Josie looks stunned.

JOSIE
This weekend? That's -- But, shouldn't we play some small clubs first? Do some gigs in Europe? Build a following ...?

WYATT
You have a following. Honestly J, I wouldn't send you out there if I didn't think you could deliver. It'd only make me look bad. I mean, this is the whole deal. Simultaneous pay-per-view webcast, live streaming video... I'm sure your bandmates are tres excited. Right Melly Mel?

He turns to Melody.

MELODY
Our first concert ever! Thanks Wyatt!

She gives him a big hug. He holds on a little too long.

WYATT
(still not letting go)
Don't thank me, thank Fiona. It was all her idea. It's been part of her plan for you guys from the start...

But they all look a little uncomfortable. Josie's looking at the picture on the invite. Val's looking at Josie. And Mel's still getting hugged by Wyatt.

31 INT. MEGARECORDS CONTROL ROOM - DAY 31

Fiona stands in front of a diagram of a large stadium. On the monitors in the background we see images of the band.

FIONA
Operation Big Concert! Where we finally take things to the next level! Isn't that right, Agent Kelly?

She is talking to a group of FEDERAL AGENTS led by AGENT KELLY.

AGENT KELLY
Uh, yes, it sounds good, Fiona. It's just, usually we use more covert code names. Maybe something like 'Operation Rolling Thunder' would be more appropriate.

FIONA
No. That's stupid.

Kelly nods and steps back in line.

FIONA (CONT'D)
When Josie and the Pussycats play their stadium concert, all of the kids in the audience -- as well as the ones watching at home -- will have to purchase these.

She holds up a pair of JOSIE-STYLE CAT-EAR HEADPHONES. She hands them to Agent Kelly, who passes them to the other agents. Some try the headsets on, curious. Fiona looks at one of the agents.

FIONA (cont'd)
Oooh, those look great on you.
(to another agent)
You not so much.
(he takes them off)
It's the debut of "3-D-X Surround Sound". A new technology that makes the music feel like it's all around you. Like 3-D!

AGENT KELLY
But isn't sound already 3-D? I mean, technically speaking, isn't that stereo?

FIONA
No.

She pulls a curtain aside to reveal a bunch of TEENAGERS behind a glass wall.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: 31

They all look SURLY and DANGEROUS (except for the fact that they're all wearing JOSIE-EAR HEADPHONES). WE RECOGNIZE ONE KID as the UNSTYLISH GIRL from the record store. Some of the agents step back, afraid.

FIONA (CONT'D)
Don't worry. It's shatterproof glass. They can't get out.

The agents look relieved.

31 CONTINUED: (2) 31

FIONA (cont'd)
This is what those kids think they're hearing over those headsets ...

She turns up a knob so we can hear inside the room. They're listening to the new Josie and the Pussycats song.

FIONA (cont'd)
And this is what they're <u>really</u> hearing.

She turns up another knob. We hear a FAMILIAR VOICE reading commands.

FAMILIAR VOICE (OS)
(through speakers)
You will obey your parents! You will not stay out past eleven o'clock! You will not drive like maniacs ...

AGENT KELLY
Hey, that voice. I know that voice ...

FIONA
It's Mr. Moviefone. It's amazing, kids'll do anything he says. He does all of our subliminal tracks.

MOVIEFONE GUY (OS)
(through speakers)
You will not shine laser pointers at movie screens! You will not laugh uncontrollably over something that's not really that funny...

Slowly we start to see the kids behind the glass wall STOP DANCING. They get a glazed look over their eyes. They eventually all sit down, like well-behaved zombies. Just staring out into space. The Agents look impressed.

FIONA
Putting out messages on all those CD's was a good start. But now with this one event we can reach them all at once ...
(she's getting more intense)
After the concert we'll have them all in our sway, obeying my every command ...
THE TIME HAS COME, GENTLEMEN!

She stares up, lost in her mania.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (3) 31

AGENT KELLY
(a little timid)
Well that seems a little ... intense.

FIONA
Life is intense.

Steps closer to Agent Kelly.

FIONA (cont'd)
Besides, who's to say that we couldn't brainwash all the nubile teenage girls into thinking forty-something men in government issue suits are just totally hot?

Agent Kelly ponders this possibility. Then he shakes Fiona's hand.

AGENT KELLY
Excellent work, Fiona! These kids will never know what hit 'em.

Fiona smiles and turns away.

FIONA
(to herself)
And neither will you ...

She grins confidently. It's all falling into place.

AGENT KELLY
I'm sorry, what was that?

Fiona turns. Did they hear that?

FIONA
Huh? What?

AGENT KELLY
You just said something.

FIONA
No I didn't.

AGENT KELLY
Yes you did. I said, "These kids will never know what hit them," and you said, "And neither will you."

FIONA
I did?

31 CONTINUED: (4) 31

ANOTHER AGENT
We all heard you.

FIONA
Oh. Well sure. I was starting to say "And neither will *you guys.*"

She points to the kids behind the glass.

FIONA (cont'd)
You know. "You guys" meaning the teenagers. I was just emphasizing your point.

AGENT KELLY
Oh ... okay. Great. Thanks.

FIONA
Any time.

She smiles at him and turns around.

FIONA (cont'd)
(to herself)
That was close.

AGENT KELLY
Excuse me?

Fiona closes her eyes. Shit. Turns back around.

FIONA
I was about to say, "That was close to being a real nice moment between the two of us." Don't you think?

Agent Kelly smiles, embarrassed.

AGENT KELLY
Uh ... sure. I guess.

There's an awkward pause. His men are standing there.

AGENT KELLY (cont'd)
(to his men)
What are you guys looking at? Come on, let's get back to the Pentagon.

Fiona turns back around. She puts her hand over her lips to keep something else from slipping out.

32 INT. JOSIE'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT 32

There's a knock at the door.

JOSIE
Who is it?

We hear Alan M. SING from the hallway.

ALAN M. (OS)
I'm the guy who brought the pizza, the kind that's good to ... eatsa.

Josie cringes. Oops. She runs to the door and opens it. There's Alan M. with his guitar and a BOX of PIZZA.

JOSIE
Oh my god, I totally forgot. I'm so sorry -- we've got to go to this record party thing, with like the head of the label or something. I totally flaked ...

Alan M. looks at Josie, wearing the SEXIEST LITTLE EVENING DRESS ever. He swallows.

ALAN M.
Whoa.

JOSIE
What's the matter?

ALAN M.
(collecting himself)
Nothing, you look so ...

Josie pulls at the dress.

JOSIE
You can't make fun of me! They sent this dress over. I didn't pick it out. But I cut off the sleeves and turned them into wristbands. It looks stupid doesn't it.

ALAN M.
(still mesmerized)
No. I didn't -- I've just never seen you ... wow.

JOSIE
Finish your sentences. Is that a good wow or a bad wow?

32 CONTINUED: 32

ALAN M.
It's a good wow. It's a very good wow.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2) 32

She smiles, a little embarrassed.

JOSIE
Oh ... thanks.

He smiles and nods. Josie looks away. Then remembers ...

JOSIE (cont'd)
Um, actually ... would you mind?

She turns around, revealing the very BACKLESS DRESS. Alan M. stares at her naked back.

ALAN M.
Mind what?

JOSIE
The chain.

ALAN M.
Oh -- right.

He steps up behind her -- attached to her dress, there's a thin chain that runs from her neck down to the small of her back. He's gotta hook it. He's right behind her, very close. His hands FUMBLE nervously, but Josie doesn't see this. She just closes her eyes for a moment, happy to have him near her. In fact, it seems like a pretty erotic experience for both of them. He gets to the top. His hands linger there ...

JOSIE
Alan M.?

He snaps out of it, quickly removing his hands as Josie turns to face him. *

ALAN M.
(flustered)
All done ...

She looks up at him. Their eyes meet for a moment ...

WYATT (OS)
Josie, you ready?

Wyatt has entered wearing a very tailored tux.

WYATT (cont'd)
The door was open. I hope I'm not interrupting anything.

Wyatt glances at Alan M.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (3) 32

WYATT (cont'd)
Hey, Alec N, how's it hangin'?

ALAN M.
Actually it's --

WYATT
What's with the initial anyway? Didn't work for Sheila E. and it's not working for you.
(calls over to Josie)
We should get going, Josie. You don't want to be late for the hottest, most exclusive party of the year!

Josie looks at Alan M., points to her TV.

JOSIE
(apologetic)
There's free cable ...

She heads for the door.

ALAN M.
Um, Josie!

She turns back, a bit surprised.

JOSIE
Yeah?

ALAN M.
I was thinking, um, do you wanna ... do something tomorrow?

JOSIE
Okay.

ALAN M.
(quickly)
When?

JOSIE
Uh, two?

Wyatt intervenes, checking his palm pilot.

WYATT
No can do. Taping for E!.

ALAN M.
One thirty?

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (4) 32

WYATT
MTV.

ALAN M.
Three?

WYATT
MSNBC.

ALAN M.
Four?

WYATT
Four fifteen.

ALAN M.
Why?

WYATT
Why not? *

ALAN M.
Four fifteen.

WYATT
Sold to the young man with no future! *

With that, Wyatt hustles Josie over to the door.

WYATT (cont'd)
Now, Josie, we have a limo waiting.

JOSIE
Okay ...

She takes one last glance at Alan M. as Wyatt leads her out.

WYATT
Good night, Adam 12!

ALAN M.
It's --

Wyatt shuts the door behind them.

33 INT. MELODY'S HOTEL ROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT 33

Melody is taking a shower. The bathroom is STEAMY. She SINGS loudly.

33 CONTINUED: 33

MELODY
(sings)
If you're happy and you know it clap your hands ...

She CLAPS and DROPS the soap. She picks it up and continues the song.

MELODY (cont'd)
If you're happy and you know it clap your hands ...

DROPS the soap again. She continues singing and dropping the soap as she claps.

Meanwhile, through the STEAMY SHOWER DOOR we see a DARK FIGURE approaching. Getting closer and closer.

Melody keep singing, her eyes closed as she rinses out her hair.

MELODY (cont'd)
If you're happy and you know it and you really want to show it ...

The figure stops right outside of the shower door. Melody reaches to turn off the water.

OUTSIDE of the shower, we see Melody open the door. She GASPS.

MELODY'S POV: THE BATHROOM MIRROR. Written in the steam is: "YOUR LIVES ARE IN DANGER. BEWARE OF THE MUSIC!"

She walks up to the mirror, staring at the words, scared. Then she DRAWS A HAPPY FACE TO DOT THE FIRST "I" and puts a HEART and a STAR over the other two. She smiles.

MELODY (cont'd)
That's better.

She grabs a towel and exits, back to her chipper self.

34 INT. VALERIE'S ROOM - NIGHT 34

Val is PUTTING ON MAKEUP while VH-1's "Behind the Music" plays on the TV.

BEHIND THE MUSIC NARRATOR
Not many people know that The Captain and Tenille got their start as a trio. Eddie "Chief" Jones was their bassist.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: 34

On TV, EDDIE "CHIEF" JONES, an older black man, addresses the camera.

CHIEF
It's true. Toni Tenille and I wrote all the songs together. The Captain just played the piano.

Val looks up. We see an old STOCK PHOTO. A young Toni Tenille plays guitar next to a young BLACK MAN on bass. He's wearing a HUGE FEATHERED HEADDRESS. The Chief. The Captain is off to the side, behind the piano.

CHIEF (cont'd)
It was even my idea to have him wear the hat. I said, "how're they gonna know you're the Captain if you don't wear a hat?" ...

Val watches, EYE PENCIL IN HAND, her eyes narrowing ... *

CHIEF (cont'd)
Guess after a while they just didn't wanna share the spotlight any more. I mean, it's not like I'm that cat that got kicked outta Hall and Oates ... But still, it's never fun to be left behind.
(laughs sadly)
The Captain always said, "friends first and a band second". Wish I had *that* in writing...

BEHIND THE MUSIC NARRATOR
Coming up, love *won't* keep them together - The Captain and Tenille hit the big time without the Chief.

Suddenly ... SNAP! Val looks down. She's broken her eye pencil * RIGHT IN HALF. *

35 EXT. FIONA'S PARTY - NIGHT 35

A LIMO pulls up out front.

36 INT. FIONA'S PARTY - NIGHT 36

Wyatt leads Josie, Val and Melody in through the front door. It's a spectacle. All sorts of fabulous celebs and beautiful people mingle and admire one another. But the minute the girls enter, it all STOPS and all eyes are upon them. The girls SMILE, very self-conscious. We move in on each of them and HEAR what they're thinking.

36 CONTINUED: 36

JOSIE (VO)
Look at them staring at us. No one thinks I should be here. That's totally what they're thinking...

We PAN to VAL.

VALERIE (VO)
Look at them staring at Josie. No one thinks I should be here. That's totally what they're thinking ...

We PAN to Melody.

MELODY (VO)
(singing)
If you're happy and you know it and you really want to show it -- If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.

Melody CLAPS. Suddenly the LIGHTS DIM. Melody looks around. Did she do that? The crowd hushes. A live ORCHESTRA plays a FANFARE. SPOTLIGHTS SWIRL around the room, finally landing on the GRAND STAIRCASE. HANDSOME MEN dressed in sleek TUXEDOS run up and take their places along the RAILINGS, lining the stairs. It's like something out of "Hello Dolly" as they all HOLD THEIR ARMS out to the TOP OF THE STAIRS, presenting ...

FIONA. Standing on the upper landing, in a spectacularly avant garde dress. TWO tuxedoed dancers take a "spontaneous" photo of her.

We see WYATT in the crowd, amidst a group of people, just as if he's one of the guests.

WYATT
My god, she's fabulous!

They buzz in agreement.

FIONA walks down the staircase, one step at a time, in sync with the music. She gets to the second landing, where ANOTHER TUXEDOED DANCER CLIMBS UP FROM UNDER THE LANDING to hand Fiona a glass of CHAMPAGNE. She takes a sip and hands it back. The CROWD "OOOOH"s.

ANGLE ON WYATT: In a TOTALLY DIFFERENT part of the room, egging on a new group of people.

WYATT (cont'd)
I've never seen anyone so magnificent!

36 CONTINUED: (2) 36

They agree as he hurries out of frame to find another group.

FIONA reaches the bottom of the stairs. TWO MORE DANCERS RUN UP THE STAIRS, TAKING WITH THEM A PIECE OF FABRIC TRAILING OFF OF HER DRESS. They UNRAVEL her, Fiona SPINNING AWKWARDLY as they race up the stairs. The last bit of fabric comes off -- ta-dah! -- there's a crazy bustier underneath. It's bizarre, but the crowd eats it up.

WYATT -- clear across the room now ...

WYATT (cont'd)
I feel like a child on Christmas morning!

He begins some 'spontaneous' applause. The crowd follows.

FIONA smiles to her guests as they applaud. She soaks it up with just a hint of modesty.

36 CONTINUED: (3) 36

FIONA
Now where are my guests of honor?

She spots Josie and the girls.

FIONA (cont'd)
There are my girls!

Then points them out to the crowd.

FIONA (cont'd)
MegaRecords' newest recording sensations, everybody! And aren't they just divine!

She sweeps into the crowd (which of course, parts for her), right up to Josie and the girls. She gives each of them a huge hug and triple-Euro air kiss.

FIONA (cont'd)
I'm Fiona. Welcome to your party.

Everyone CHEERS and APPLAUDS. Fiona leans in to Josie.

FIONA (cont'd)
Enough spectacle. Let's go be girls.

She leads the trio out of the room as the crowd gets back to partying.

37 INT. FIONA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 37

Fiona, Josie, Val and Melody sit in the lavish bedroom. It's very ... PINK. Fiona giggles as she SHUTS the DOORS.

FIONA
This is my girly room. No boys allowed.

Val and Josie look around, appalled. The bed is filled with STUFFED * ANIMALS. There's an ORNATE DOLLHOUSE in the corner. *

37 CONTINUED: 37

FIONA (cont'd)
Come on, sit down. We'll gossip.

A uniformed HOUSEBOY enters with a tray of COOKIES, JUNK FOOD and CHAMPAGNE.

FIONA (cont'd)
Just leave it right here, Gregor.

He exits. Fiona looks at Josie.

FIONA (cont'd)
Tell me he's not just the cutest!

JOSIE
He's pretty cute ...

FIONA
Wouldn't you just love to strip him down and roll him in cookie dough?

The girls exchange looks. Uh ...

MELODY
(re: the food tray)
Ooh! Doritos!

FIONA
Mmm! Yes, let's just pig out!

The girls grab some junk food off of the tray and SIT, then look on, confused, as Fiona takes her plate -- ONE DORITO, a CHEESE CURL and FIVE CAREFULLY COUNTED M&M's.

Fiona flops onto the carpet next to Josie and begins MASSAGING HER.

JOSIE
What are you doing?

FIONA
Massage chain!
(to Val and Mel)
Come on girls, it'll be just like a slumber party!

They reluctantly sit down and join the weird massage chain.

FIONA (CONT'D)
So Josie, what do you weigh?

37 CONTINUED: (2) 37

JOSIE
(stunned)
What?

FIONA
Your weight.

JOSIE
One ... eighteen.

FIONA
HA! One-fifteen! I'm three pounds lighter than you.

Josie looks at the TWINKIE in her hand.

FIONA (cont'd)
Oh, no! Keep eating! Don't worry about it. I think you look great.

Josie shrugs and bites into the twinkie. Reaches for another. Fiona glares down at her lone Dorito.

FIONA (cont'd)
(under her breath)
Tho pretty and *popular*.

JOSIE
What'd you just say?

Fiona swallows. Caught again. The LISP becomes more obvious.

FIONA
Nothing. I said, "the new thong's pretty popular."

VALERIE
What thong?

MELODY
I don't like thongs. It's like a constant wedgie.

FIONA
No, I meant thong! The new thingle!

The girls have no idea what she's talking about. Fiona turns away, embarassed.

FIONA (cont'd)
Excuthe me. I mutht have thome food caught in my teeth.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (3) 37

Fiona GETS UP AND RUNS BEHIND A TRANSLUCENT SCREEN. We can see her SILHOUETTE as she talks to herself.

FIONA (cont'd)
Thtop it! Thtop it thith thecond!

We see her SLAP herself across the face.

FIONA (cont'd)
You're tho pathetic! You loother!

She SLAPS herself once again, then EXITS FROM BEHIND THE SCREEN, composed. The girls look up at her.

FIONA (cont'd)
Got it. Hey, who wants to French braid?

The girls exchange looks. What the hell is going on?

37 CONTINUED: (4) 37

FIONA (cont'd)
Oh, look at me, hoarding you girls away in here. You should be out enjoying your party. Meeting people! I want everyone everywhere to be talking about you! Go on ...

She opens the door for them. As they walk out of the room, Val leans in and whispers to Josie.

VALERIE
Head for the exit and don't look back.

38 EXT. FIONA'S PARTY - NIGHT 38

The girls are walking around a huge, lit-up ICE SCULPTURE garden. The letters F-I-O-N-A are arranged in a glorious semi-circle.

VALERIE
Okay, so who else thinks Fiona's a freak?

MELODY
Oh my god. I'm so glad you said something, because as soon as you said her name I got the most awful sensation. Like an ice cold chill creeping up my spine!

Valerie looks at Mel.

VALERIE
That's because you're sitting on the O.

Melody looks down. She's sitting on the big ice "O".

MELODY
Oh.

She steps down.

MELODY (cont'd)
No. I'm still feeling the shivers. It's not the O. It's her.

JOSIE
Yeah. You could be right. She did seem a little loopy. I mean, she only ate one Dorito.

MELODY
(nods)
You know what else is loopy ...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 38

MELODY (cont'd)
Those girls from Riverdale. How come they're here? And how come they're not throwing things at me?

VALERIE
Yeah, it was like ... they were zombies or something.

MELODY
Oh my god. What if somebody brainwashed them into liking us and we're actually just pawns in some great big conspiracy involving advertising, the government and the media?

The girls consider this for a beat, then Melody LAUGHS and points.

MELODY (cont'd)
(spots another ice sculpture)
Oh my god! That basset hound's made entirely out of ice! That's so funny!

Oh well. But Josie's deep in thought, worried. She turns to Val.

JOSIE
What do you think, Val?

VALERIE
Well, stuff's definitely been ... different since we left Riverdale.

Josie looks off, considering this. Val watches her, pointedly.

VALERIE (cont'd)
And if you ask me, some things feel like they've changed completely.

She frowns.

38 CONTINUED: (2) 38

CLOSE ON: A VIDEO MONITOR. Displaying the girls talking at the fountain.

39 INT. FIONA'S BEDROOM SUITE - NIGHT 39

Fiona sits in front of a MONITOR, watching the entire conversation. She leans back in her chair, eating compulsively from a bowl of outfit-matching M&M's.

FIONA
Wyatt, why is it that celebrities have this unyielding desire to also be *smart*? I mean, they get the adulation of millions, free clothes, their picture on the cover of In Style, yet it's just not enough.
(in a whiny voice)
"Look at me, I'm not just pretty, I have a brain! Put me on 'Politically Incorrect!'" Like anybody cares.

She glares back at the monitor, then turns to Wyatt.

39 CONTINUED: 39

FIONA (cont'd)
For god's sake, isn't being famous enough? Just smile and sit quietly, and leave the thinking to the masterminds. Like me.

WYATT
Indeed.

FIONA
I don't like those two "Pussycats." They're asking questions and that's dangerous. We can't afford to take any more risks.

WYATT
I'll get rid of them. Find you a new band by the morning.

She beans him with an M&M.

FIONA
Think, Wyatt! We've already sold half a million Josie ears for Big Concert!

WYATT
Right. So what are you suggesting?

FIONA
Keep Josie. And put those two nosy Pussycats to sleep.

WYATT
Josie'll never play without her friends.

Fiona smiles. Devious.

FIONA
Oh, I think we might persuade her.
(puts the M&Ms down, confident)
"Next on 'Behind the Music,' Josie suffers a tragic loss ..."

Fiona and Wyatt laugh their evil laughs. It becomes competitive, until Fiona chucks an M&M right in Wyatt's mouth. He begins to choke, ending the laugh-off. Fiona wins.

40 INT. TOY STORE - DAY 40 *

Josie sits at a table signing boxes of the new JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCAT DOLLS. *

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: 40

Val and Melody are at their own table off to the side. Loads of girls clutch JOSIE DOLLS, lining up to get their picture taken with Josie. The line isn't so long for Val and Mel. Melody plays with a JOSIE DOLL and giggles.

MELODY
Look, Josie's doing yoga.

Melody bends the Josie doll into a complicated yoga position. Val looks at her own doll.

VALERIE
My doll's knees don't even bend.

The Val doll doesn't even have a knee joint. Val bends it and it snaps RIGHT OFF.

VALERIE (cont'd)
I don't believe this.

She glances at her anger book, but gives up, pissed.

VALERIE (cont'd)
Hey, Mel, can I ask you something? Have you noticed that everything has -- sorta become all about Josie?

MELODY
Better yet, have you noticed that when I lift the Josie doll's arm, Josie lifts her arm too? Watch!

Melody lifts the doll's arm. Josie doesn't lift her arm.

MELODY (cont'd)
It worked just before. I swear ...

VALERIE
I'm serious. I mean, I know she's the lead singer and all, but it just seems like people are kinda ... forgetting about us. You know?

MELODY
No. Not really. But if you feel that way why don't you say something to Josie?

VALERIE
I don't know. Maybe it's all in my head. People still care about us, right?

40 CONTINUED: (2) 40

Just then a kid's FATHER grabs the VALERIE DOLL out of Val's hands and HOISTS IT OVERHEAD, SMASHING IT DOWN REPEATEDLY on THE FLOOR. He tosses it back to Valerie. The doll is now HEADLESS.

DOLL SWINGING DAD
Sorry. There was a spider crawling towards Josie's table.

Val ponders the HEADLESS, LEGLESS DOLL. She GRIPS it.

VALERIE
Shoving this down his throat will not make me feel better.

40 CONTINUED: (3) 40

From OUTSIDE THE STORE, we once again see a SHADOWY FIGURE watching the girls. After some ominous breathing, he disappears behind a VENDOR CART.

41 OMITTED 41

41A INT. AQUARIUM - DAY 41A

Josie and Alan M. walk down the stairs of the aquarium. At the base of the stairs, a TOUR GUIDE with a MICROPHONE is lecturing some children on sturgeon.

ALAN M.
You know I'm playing a gig tonight.

JOSIE
You are? That's great! *

ALAN M.
Yeah. It's just this bar, but I played the manager my demo and he said I could have an hour tonight. You think ... maybe you'd wanna come?

JOSIE *
Yeah! *

ALAN M.
'Cause I know you've been busy and all...

TOUR GUIDE
(thru mic)
Oh my god, it's JOSIE!!!

The KIDS see Josie and FREAK. They SCREAM and RUN for her. Josie and Alan M. run off.

41B INT. AQUARIUM - DAY 41B

Josie and Alan M. run DOWN a RAMP, pursued by the mob of kids.

41C INT. AQUARIUM - DAY 41C

Josie and Alan M. pass a DOOR marked "KEEP OUT". Alan M. grabs Josie and pulls her inside. The fans pass by the door, missing them.

41D INT. AQUARIUM - DAY 41D

Josie and Alan M. find themselves alone in the BELUGA WHALE room. It's very quiet, with only the whales swimming behind them. They are almost in silhouette.

41D CONTINUED: 41D

JOSIE
Thanks.

ALAN M.
No problem.

Josie stares at a PASSING WHALE for a moment. She frowns.

JOSIE
How am I gonna pull this off?

ALAN M.
What?

JOSIE
I'm just a girl from Riverdale. I'm not a rock star.

Alan M. steps closer. Smiles at her. Another WHALE passes.

ALAN M.
Jose, you've been waiting your whole life for this.

JOSIE
I know. I'm just ... I'm scared.

ALAN M.
Don't be. You have to believe in yourself.

JOSIE
What if I can't?

ALAN M.
Then I'll believe in you for you.

Josie smiles. Alan M. looks at her. Josie tilts her face up to his. He leans closer. They're about to kiss ...

When they hear a KNOCK on the TANK GLASS. FROM INSIDE. It's a TOURIST, swimming there with an UNDERWATER CAMERA. He waves and SNAPS a picture of JOSIE. FLASH!

The moment's definitely killed. Josie and Alan M. smile awkwardly at one another, then walk off.

42 OMITTED 42

43 INT. JOSIE'S HOTEL ROOM - SUNSET 43

The girls are just back from the pool, hanging out.

JOSIE
What do you think for the concert? Open with "Three Small Words" or "Come On"?

Val seems distracted. She's staring at Mel who's reading a copy of VANITY FAIR. JOSIE'S ON THE COVER -- body painted with leopard spots. Alone.

VALERIE
I dunno.

JOSIE
I mean, we could try "Roll on Rollie Wheel", but I still think the lyrics need work.

Valerie notices the JOSIE COKE CAN Melody's drinking from.

JOSIE (cont'd)
What do you think?

Val sighs and looks out the window. Right at a passing BLIMP. It's PAINTED LEOPARD, with a picture of a smiling JOSIE. "LOG ON TO JOSIE.COM!"

VALERIE
It's your call, you're the boss.

Josie puts her guitar down.

JOSIE
No I'm not. What's up with you?

Val looks at Josie. She's about to say something when Wyatt walks into the room.

WYATT
Hello, girls! How are the most beautiful and talented women in rock and roll?

43 CONTINUED: 43

VALERIE
Don't you mean 'woman'?

WYATT
Valerie dear, you must learn to take a compliment. What are you gonna do when you go on TRL tonight and Carson Daly tells you how much he loves your music?

VALERIE
You mean what's Josie gonna do ...

WYATT
No. She won't be there. We just booked you and Melody. It's time for the world to get to know the other Pussycats.

MELODY
We're going on TRL?! Do I get to touch Carson?!

WYATT
Anywhere you like. The taping starts in two hours.
(to Val)
Unless you've got a problem with this.

Val looks at Josie.

VALERIE
Have you got a problem with this?

JOSIE
Me? Of course not. You guys'll have so much fun! I love that show.

VALERIE
And you don't feel bad that we're going on without you?

JOSIE
Why? I don't care about that stuff.

Valerie smiles at Josie and give her a big hug.

VALERIE
I'm so sorry Jose. I don't know what I was thinking.

Josie's still a little confused.

JOSIE
Okay.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: (2) 43

WYATT
Come on, ladies. We've got stylists and designers waiting in your rooms.

Val and Melody look at each other, excited and quickly exit. Wyatt sits down next to Josie.

WYATT (cont'd)
And you have homework tonight.
(pulls a CD from his jacket)
This is the re-mix of your next single -- the ballad? I'm curious to get your thoughts.

He waves the CD at her, but she doesn't take it.

JOSIE
Can it wait 'till tomorrow? It's just Alan M's playing his first gig tonight and I wanna get there early.

WYATT
Ohhh. I'm so sorry, Josie. I forgot to tell you. Alan M. called my office earlier. They cancelled his show.

JOSIE
They did? Why didn't he call me here?

WYATT
He probably did. I'm sure when you go down to the front desk there will be a message waiting. Excuse me.

Wyatt stands back up and pulls out his phone. He takes a few steps away from Josie and quickly whispers into the phone. Josie looks curious.

WYATT (cont'd)
Yes. The message is down there waiting for you. Now.

JOSIE
Well I guess I should call him.

WYATT
Oh, he also said to tell you that he wouldn't be reachable for a few hours, but he'll call you as soon as he can.

43 CONTINUED: (3) 43

JOSIE
All that was on the message?

WYATT
Uh. Yes. Excuse me.

Wyatt places another whispery call.

WYATT (cont'd)
Yes. That's all on the message. Anything else?

He readies his phone for another call.

JOSIE
Who do you keep calling?

Wyatt changes tactics.

WYATT
I'm running a label here, Josephine. And I have other artists who need me and need my time. Other artists who aren't quite so difficult about doing a little extra work.
(holds up the CD)
Frankly, your level of non-commitment makes me question your commitment commitment. So you want to be a rock superstar, live large, big house, five cars? You have to do the time. Or someone else will. And you'll be left to explain it to Val and Mel.

Josie looks quite guilty.

JOSIE
I -- I'm sorry.

Wyatt shrugs.

JOSIE (cont'd)
I am committed.

43 CONTINUED: (4) 43

He thrusts the CD in her direction once more. Josie takes it.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
I am.

WYATT
I know love, I know.

44 INT. TV STUDIO - NIGHT 44

Val and Melody enter the dark studio. At first glance it looks like they're in the TRL studios.

MELODY
Val ... We're on TRL!!!

They can't contain their excitement and give each other a high five. But as they walk further into the studio ...

VALERIE
Check out the view ...
(realizing)
It's ... fake.

She walks over to the large windows and sticks her hand through to poke the BAD TRANSLIGHT of the CITY VIEW.

MELODY
This stuff looks so different on TV!

Melody touches the FLATSCREEN MONITOR. "TRL" is spelled out with MASKING TAPE. Melody tugs at the tape and the WHOLE MONITOR BREAKS OFF. It's made of CHEAP CARDBOARD. In fact, even the AUDIENCE is filled with CARDBOARD PEOPLE (actually, cardboard CELEBRITIES).

VALERIE
Where is everybody? Where's Carson?

MALE VOICE (OS)
Right over here, ladies.

They turn to see a FIGURE emerge from behind the seats. Melody hides the fake monitor behind her back. As the figure steps into the light we see its ... ARIES SPEARS. He's dressed like Carson and blowing on his freshly painted nails.

ARIES
(casual & Carson-like)
Hey, what's up? Carson Daly. Thanks for coming to the show.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: 44

VALERIE
You're not Carson Daly.

ARIES
Sure I am.

MELODY
Wow. You look so different on T.V.

ARIES
Oh, you mean the tan? Well I was down in Cancun doing spring break. You know. The sun. South of the equator.
(checks out Val)
How you doin' baby?

CARSON (O.S.)
Okay, man, cut it out.

CARSON DALY steps out from behind the set.

MELODY
Oh my god it's Carson!!

CARSON
(mocking her)
Oh my god it's Melody!
(turns back to Aries)
Why are you always trying to be me?

ARIES
What are you saying? A black man's not good enough to be Carson Daly?

CARSON
I am Carson Daly!

ARIES
I am Carson Daly. I am Tiger Woods.

VALERIE
What is going on here? Is this TRL or what?

CARSON
Well it's not quite Total Request Live. You could say it's more like: Total Request ... Dead.

Carson pulls out TWO BASEBALL BATS from behind his back. He tosses one over to Aries.

44 CONTINUED: (2) 44

ARIES
Yeah, see we received only one request today...

He starts TWIRLING his bat menacingly. The girls turn back to Carson.

CARSON
And that's to kill you.

Carson raises his bat as well. Melody laughs.

MELODY
That was funny. Carson said he was gonna kill us. Like that was the request ...

VALERIE
He's not kidding.

Carson shakes his head. Sorry. Melody and Val look at each other as Carson and Aries rush towards them, BATS RAISED, ready to strike.

Melody and Val SCREAM.

44 CONTINUED: (3) 44

45 INT. JOSIE'S HOTEL ROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT 45

Josie, looking a bit sad, steps into a BUBBLE BATH. She puts WYATT'S CD in her DISCMAN and presses play. It's her and the Pussycats singing a SWEET BALLAD. But once again -- it sounds like an OVERPRODUCED POP SONG.

The PHONE RINGS, but Josie doesn't hear it. We PUSH IN ON HER EYES as the phone rings and rings ...

46 INT. SEEDY BAR - NIGHT 46

A couple of CUSTOMERS stand at the bar waiting for their drinks. HOMELESS GUY eats some oregano off of a napkin in a booth. In the back, Alan M. is at the PAY PHONE, listening to it ring. He finally hangs up. He sighs and sits down on a stool. This is his "STAGE". Right between the PHONE, the EXIT, the POOL TABLE and the MEN'S ROOM. He strums his guitar and re-tunes.

ALAN M.
Well, this next song is dedicated to a... friend of mine. I kinda wanted to wait till she showed up to play it, but I guess she...

There's a small table up by the "stage" with a ROSE in a vase and a RESERVED SIGN. It's EMPTY. Alan M. looks at the table.

ALEXANDRA (OS)
Whoooo! Whooooo!

He turns. Of course she's there. Scantily clad and MOVING her chair as close to the stage as she can. She's got a home-made BANNER reading "I'M WITH THE BAND!".

Alan M. strums a chord and sighs.

ALAN M.
(trails off, sad)
Well, anyway, it's called, "Wish You Felt The Same".

Alan M. blows into his harmonica and strums the guitar. We hear a FLUSH from the Men's room. Alexandra bellows:

ALEXANDRA
SHUT UP OR HOLD IT TILL YOU GET HOME!

She turns and smiles sweetly at Alan M.

47 INT. TV STUDIO - NIGHT 47

SMASH! A FAKE CAMERA is DESTROYED by a SWINGING BAT. It's Aries Spears still swinging at Valerie. She screams.

ARIES
Who would you like to kill you?
(doing Eddie Murphy)
Eddie Murphy could kill you ...

He does Eddie's LAUGH. Swings. Val ducks.

VALERIE
I don't want anybody to kill me! I'm a firm believer in non-violence.

ARIES
(as Jesse Jackson)
The Reverend Jesse Jackson is non-violent. If you were wearin' a hat, I'd knock it off with my bat.

He riffs a little as Jesse, rhyming away.

Meanwhile at the other end of the stage, Carson is backing Melody up into the AUDIENCE BLEACHERS.

MELODY
I can't believe you're a killer. You seem so nice on TV,

CARSON
Really? You know I always thought you were kinda hot.

MELODY
That's so funny! I thought the same thing about you!

Carson swings at Melody but she quickly grabs a cardboard cutout of CHRISTINA AGUILERA to block him. He knocks it right out of her hand with his bat.

CARSON
What's your sign?

MELODY
Scorpio ...

CARSON
(excited)
Capricorn!

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: 47

He swings again. Melody tries to block with the Britney cutout. They DUEL out of frame.

Meanwhile, Aries has moved on to AL PACINO, swinging the bat.

ARIES
(as Al Pacino)
Hoo-ah! Hoo-ah!

VALERIE
(ducking)
Who's that?

ARIES
Al Pacino.

VALERIE
That's a terrible Al Pacino. And why do you keep doing all those impressions? They're not even funny.

Val's backed up to the translight wall now.

ARIES
You know who's funny? Bill Cosby's funny.
(as Bill Cosby)
And he's coming to kill you!!!

He swings the bat over his head and runs, FULL SPEED, right at Val. She turns around, backed up against the set -- as Aries comes barrelling at her.

At the last second, Val DIVES out of the way, and Aries goes FLYING PAST -- THROUGH THE WINDOW, RIPPING THROUGH THE CITY TRANSLIGHT AND BAM! -- Into a CURTAIN that DROPS, along with a heavy TRUSS, right on his head. He's out cold.

Val looks up into the audience seats to see ...

Mel and Carson, still dueling with the pop-star cutouts. Carson knocks Britney away. They're up on the top row of seats.

CARSON
No way! *My* favorite movie's "Lady and the Tramp!"

MELODY
When the dogs are eating spaghetti, and they've got the same piece ...

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (2) 47

CARSON & MELODY
(together)
And their noses touch!

They look at each other and laugh. They sigh.

CARSON
You know, if I wasn't a key player in a vast conspiracy to brainwash the youth of America with pop music ... I'll bet we could date.

MELODY
(hopeful)
You think?

Carson looks off and imagines it for a beat. As he turns back to her, MELODY WALLOPS HIM with another CUTOUT. Carson goes flying over the RAILING and screams as he falls the twenty feet to the stage floor. BOOM! Melody peers over the railing.

MELODY (cont'd)
Yeah, right. Like I'd ever go out with a guy like you.

She turns to her celebrity cutout -- MATT DAMON.

MELODY (cont'd)
You, on the other hand ...

Val comes running up the stairs to Melody. They hug.

VALERIE
Come on. Let's get outta here and find Josie.

They take off together.

47 CONTINUED: (3) 47

48 INT. JOSIE'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT 48

Josie is still listening to the CD. But now she's dressed and POSTURING in the mirror. She pouts, smiles at herself, striking all sorts of big rock-star poses. There's a KNOCK at the door.

VALERIE (OS)
Josie!! Quick! Open the door!!

Josie turns. She removes the headphones and stalks over to the door, annoyed. She flings the door OPEN.

JOSIE
What.

Val and Melody rush inside, closing the door behind them.

VALERIE
We've gotta talk to you.

JOSIE
How did you get up here? I specifically told the front desk no visitors.

VALERIE
Ha ha. Seriously, Jose, listen --

JOSIE
Did I tell you you could speak to me?!

Val and Mel look at her, confused.

MELODY
Are you okay?

48 CONTINUED: 48

JOSIE
Why wouldn't I be okay? I have the number one single in the country. You, on the other hand, should maybe be a little worried ...

Josie walks back over to the mirror and starts applying lipgloss. Val and Melody exchange a look.

MELODY
Josie, Carson Daly tried to kill us tonight and I think it has something to do with our music!

JOSIE
Why do you call it "our music"?

VALERIE
(confused)
Because it's ... Are you even listening?

JOSIE
You bet I am. I've been listening very carefully. And you know what I hear? I hear someone glomming on to my talent, and my credit. "Our music".
(scoffs)
I basically write all of it.

Val looks stunned, but still insulted.

VALERIE
No. We write together.

JOSIE
Oh. Okay. So if we're doing equal amounts of work, why isn't the band called Valerie and The Pussycats?

Valerie looks devastated.

VALERIE
I knew it. You've been thinking this all along ...

Josie ignores her.

VALERIE (cont'd)
I'm just ... backup to you.

JOSIE
But you're good, solid backup.

48 CONTINUED: (2) 48

She cackles. Valerie's whole world is falling apart. She can't do anything but look at Josie in disbelief.

JOSIE (cont'd)
But you know, if this whole band thing doesn't work out I can probably get you work as my bodyguard.

Josie THROWS SOME FAKE PUNCHES. Valerie is unable to control the tears welling up in her eyes. She turns and runs out of the room.

JOSIE (cont'd)
(calling after her)
Remember, "good people don't get angry"!

Melody looks like she's about to cry. She steps up to Josie.

MELODY
Josie, don't do this. We need to stick together now ...

Josie holds back a laugh.

JOSIE
Oh my god. Melody's gonna cry. What's the matter, snugglebunny? Finally realizing the world's not all sunshine and rainbows?

MELODY
Stop it ...

JOSIE
Not everyone gets a happy ending, muffin. And guess what? Puppies turn into dogs who get old and then they die.

Melody's astonished. She can't take any more. She BURSTS INTO TEARS and runs out of the room. Josie calls after her.

JOSIE (cont'd)
One day you'll thank me!
(a beat, then)
Of course by then I won't be taking your calls.

Josie SMILES and picks up her WALKMAN again. Puts it on and listens ... As the ballad plays, we DISSOLVE to a MONTAGE:

- Val, in her room, CRYING as she SHREDS UP her ANGER BOOK.

48 CONTINUED: (3) 48

- Mel, looking in the window of a pet store, CRYING as she looks at some PUPPIES.

- Alan M, sadly strumming his guitar in the PARK. He looks up and sees a BILLBOARD across the street. It's photo of a smiling JOSIE -- ADVERTISING the "CONCERT TOMORROW!!!" Alan M. hangs his head, too broken-up to play. PAN to reveal Alexandra, next to him and beaming happily. She SNUGGLES onto his shoulder, ecstatic. Alan M. doesn't even notice.

- Alexander, CRYING in a doorway. PULL BACK to reveal he's in front of BARNEY'S. There's a "CLOSED" sign on the door. Alexander looks at his WATCH and cries even harder.

49 EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT 49

Josie is walking along, listening to herself singing the BALLAD on the CD. She looks angry. We MOVE in closer to the WALKMAN. The MUSIC is turned up loud -- but SLOWLY, we begin to STRIP AWAY the ELEMENTS. First the SYNTHS come out. Then the BACKING VOCALS. We keep pushing in -- closer to the SPINNING DISK. Now the DRUMS come out, and the BASS, and the GUITAR. Until all we're left with is JOSIE'S SOLO VOICE. We push right in to the LASER, reading the disc ... and that's when we pull Josie's VOCALS AWAY -- leaving us with the last remaining track ... the SUBLIMINAL MESSAGES:

MOVIEFONE GUY (OS)
Val and Melody are not your friends! Josie is the star! They're just riding your coattails! Val and Melody are out to get you! You should have a solo career!

Josie stalks down the street. We hear the MUSIC again. She passes a WALL, plastered with JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS' album POSTERS. She STOPS, looks at the happy image of her and her friends. Suddenly, her scowl turns to a look of slight confusion.

We PUSH IN on the disc again. The music drops out.

MOVIEFONE GUY (OS - cont'd)
(cont'd)
You do all the work, they steal all the credit! Val and Melody are not your friends ...

Josie GLARES at the posters once again, turns and walks on.

MOVIEFONE GUY (OS - cont'd)
(cont'd)
They're trying to destroy you, Josie! You'll be better off without them! Val and Melody are mean, evil girls ...

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: 49

She finds herself in the middle of a huge INTERSECTION now, and STOPS SHORT at the sight of an enormous JUMBOTRON VIDEO SCREEN. MTV is on, and they're playing The Pussycats' VIDEO. Josie looks up at their image in happier times. Okay, it was just a week ago but they were happy.

MOVIEFONE GUY (cont'd)
Val and Melody are not your friends!

Josie turns away from the video. She walks away, faster now. It's like the MUSIC and the SUBLIMINAL TRACK are fighting for space in her head now. She starts to RUN. As the music RISES, we PUSH IN to her troubled expression.

MOVIEFONE GUY (cont'd)
They're trying to destroy you, Josie!

Josie runs past a GUY selling knock-off Josie and the Pussycats EARS ...

MOVIEFONE GUY (cont'd)
Val and Melody are mean, evil girls ...

Josie's passing a FOOT LOCKER. The JOSIE LEOPARD PUMA is displayed in the front window -- held by a life-sized JOSIE STANDEE SMILING BACK AT HER.

She RUNS down the street as a stray CAT darts out in front of her. She TRIPS, and lands sprawled out on the pavement. The discman WARBLES in and out, obviously messed-up now.

Josie breathes heavily, trying to get her bearings. Her little MESSENGER BAG is torn, the contents SPILLED across the sidewalk. She starts to gather her things; hairbrush, makeup case, sunglasses ... Until her eyes catch ...

HER RIVERDALE BUS PASS. With the PHOTO of her, Val and Mel. The one they swore on in the plane. We HEAR the flashback.

JOSIE, VAL & MEL(OS)
Friends first.

Josie finally rips the headphones off and STARES down at the CD PLAYER. What the hell is going on? She takes off running. *

49 CONTINUED: (2) 49

She grabs her bag, gets up and begins to RUN.

50 INT. HOTEL - NIGHT 50

Josie bursts into Val's hotel room.

JOSIE
Val!

But she's not there. The place is a mess. Alexandra is on the bed, watching TV and gorging on room service. Alexander is sprawled on the floor, surrounded by a bunch of junk from the mini bar and a bunch of EMPTY ZIMA BOTTLES.

ALEXANDER
Oh, the return of the sloopershtar ...

JOSIE
What's going on, where's Val?

Alexandra wags an admonishing finger at Josie.

ALEXANDRA
I heard somebody was being a See You Next Tuesday ...

JOSIE
What? Where are Val and Mel?

ALEXANDRA
Since when do you care?

ALEXANDER
(pissed)
They're gone! An' I hope you're happy! No more band! Jus' like the Beatles!
(he starts to CRY)
Jus' like the Jackson 5 ... Jus' like A Flock of Seagulls ...
(he starts to LAUGH)
Caw! Caw!

He continues to make SEAGULL NOISES, laughing. Josie looks at the CD in her hands. Thinks.

JOSIE
Okay, here's what we have to do. We've gotta get out of this hotel, and take this over to the recording studio. Right now!

Alexander shields his eyes from the glare of the CD.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED: (2) 50

51 INT. RECORDING STUDIO - DAWN 51

Josie is behind the MIXING BOARD. Alexandra sips a DIET COKE. Alexander is slumped in a chair, clutching his Wee Brie.

JOSIE
Wyatt gave me this CD of our song. And it was like, as soon as I heard it, I don't know ...

ALEXANDRA
What, it sucked?

Josie begins flipping ON all of the displays. As she does, she slides all of the FADERS DOWN to an even low level.

JOSIE
There's something on here. I'm positive.

She presses PLAY on the deck and we hear the first strains of the ballad. Josie singing ...

ALEXANDRA
Sounds like a squirrel in a blender.

Josie SLIDES up one of the FADERS. The music BLARES and DISTORTS. Alexandra covers her ears. Alexander falls off of his chair. Josie rushes to move the fader back.

JOSIE
Wait -- it's ...
(picking another FADER)
This one.

The music drops out completely.

ALEXANDRA
Thank god.

Then we hear ...

MOVIEFONE GUY
Val and Melody are not your friends!

Josie's jaw drops.

51 CONTINUED: 51

MOVIEFONE GUY (CONT'D)
(from CD)
Josie is the star! You do all the work, they steal all the credit!

ALEXANDRA
Oh my god that's Mr. Moviefone! How did you get him to put that on there?
(narrows eyes accusingly)
You slept with him!

JOSIE
What are you talking about?! This is <u>on</u> our CD! Underneath the music!

ALEXANDER
Subliminal messages! The wee brie hears all. Behold the power of cheese!

JOSIE
Wyatt put them there. To brainwash me.

ALEXANDER
(to the brie)
Shh! Don't listen!

Alexandra opens her DIET COKE and feigns a dramatic 'horror movie' CUE.

ALEXANDRA
Duh-du-dummm!
(laughs)
'Brainwashing'. Okay.
(faux terrified)
Ooh ... Help us, we're all being brainwashed!

Alexandra sips her beverage and smiles.

ALEXANDRA (cont'd)
Diet Coke is the new Pepsi One.

Josie studies the FADER that's up on the board. The paper tape above it is marked "MS".

JOSIE
MS. 'Main ... system'? 'Music ... sequence'...?

Thinking, Josie looks out into the studio. She can't help but see the MEGASOUND, illuminated by a lone SPOT.

51 CONTINUED: (2) 51

She scrambles out of the booth.

CUT TO:

52 INT. STUDIO - DAWN 52

Josie hovers over the MegaSound. Alexandra pokes at her brother with a drumstick. He drunkenly swats it away, laughing. Josie SHUSHES them. She turns on the MegaSound and it HUMS to life.

Josie presses PLAY. Waits. Nothing.

ALEXANDRA
Maybe you broke it.

ALEXANDER
Ooooh! You're gonna get in trou-ble...

Josie ignores them, fiddles with some knobs. We finally hear:

MOVIEFONE GUY
(thru MegaSound)
Josie and the Pussycats are the best band ever! They are totally jerkin'! You must buy their CD! You have to see them in concert ...

Josie's eyes widen.

MOVIEFONE GUY (cont'd)
You also have to buy Steve Madden shoes!

Now Josie just looks confused.

MOVIEFONE GUY (cont'd)
Heath Ledger is the new Matt Damon! You're nobody without an Abercrombie & Fitch vintage tee!

JOSIE
They're selling things through our music?

MOVIEFONE GUY
Josie and the Pussycats are the best band ever!

JOSIE
They're selling <u>us</u> through our music?

52 CONTINUED: 52

ALEXANDRA
I knew there was a reason you were so popular!

ALEXANDER
I wanna vintage tee! An' Heath Ledger!

Josie STOPS the MegaSound. She looks pale.

JOSIE
Oh my god. It's my fault. Everything. People dressing the same ... buying the same stuff. *I* sold it to them. I'm a ... trend pimp.

Now she's starting to look pissed. She looks at Alexander and Alexandra.

JOSIE (cont'd)
Well it stops here. I am nobody's pimp. And I'm not letting Fiona and Wyatt get away with this. We're going to the police. And we're taking this with us!

She gets behind the MegaSound and starts to PUSH. No one's helping.

JOSIE (cont'd)
(looking up)
Are you guys gonna help me or --

And there, in the studio, are Fiona and a group of her thugs.

FIONA
Oh, I'll help!
(laughs)
Yeah, 'cause you know I'm just gonna let you walk right out of here and spoil everything.

Fiona smiles cruelly. This is not good.

CUT TO:

52 CONTINUED: (2) 52

53 CLOSE ON a TV SCREEN: CARSON DALY on TRL LIVE. 53

CARSON
All right, the event I know everyone's been waiting for is finally here ... One night only ... The worldwide live debut concert of Josie and the Pussycats!!! *

INT. MTV STUDIOS - SAME

The KIDS in the studio audience cheer. The band's SECOND SINGLE PLAYS as we see images of the girls from their video on the studio flatscreens. Carson looks a little beat up. His arm is in a sling.

CARSON
Live at the Mega-Arena, with a simultaneous global webcast! Log on to @MTV for details.
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

CARSON (cont'd)
And remember, you won't hear a note without your Josie 3-D-X headphones, so pick some up! I know I bought two!

He holds up the Josie CAT-EAR HEADPHONES. Puts two pair on his head. The studio audience puts their ears on too.

54 EXT. STADIUM - SUNSET 54

An expensive looking (but not really <u>that</u> expensive) establishing shot of the stadium. The parking lot is filled with fans tailgating. It's like a Dead show, but instead of tie-dye everyone is wearing LEOPARD. Kids play Hackey-Sack while others jam to their favorite Josie song on acoustic guitar. And <u>EVERYONE</u> is wearing the JOSIE EAR-HEADPHONES.

We CUT TO VARIOUS TEENAGERS across the country. Watching the COUNTDOWN on PAY-PER-VIEW. Downloading LIVE VIDEO on their computers. They are also wearing the JOSIE EAR-HEADPHONES.

55 EXT. STADIUM STAGE - DUSK 55

The lights are shining up at the huge stage and speaker towers. At the top of the Hollywood Bowl-like arched stage is a HUGE PAIR of JOSIE-EARS. We find the LAUGHING GIRLS from the hotel excitedly finding their seats.

56 INT. UNDER THE STAGE - NIGHT 56

Alexander and Alexandra sit on a sofa in this underground control room. They're closely watched over by a large GUARD. Another GUARD leads Josie out of a dressing room. She's in an elaborate, glitzy stage COSTUME-- and she looks miserable. Fiona And Wyatt step up.

FIONA
Look at the pouty girl. Boo hoo. Well you'd better snap out of it Red, because you've got a show to put on.

Josie looks up at her.

JOSIE
Are you kidding? There's no way I'm gonna play. Help you send messages to those kids? Forget it. I'm done.

WYATT
Oh look who's all principled all of a sudden. You didn't seem to mind when your song hit number one.

Fiona steps closer to Josie.

56 CONTINUED: 56

FIONA
You should kiss my cellulite-free ass for all I've done for you. I made you a rock star. Tell me you don't love that.

She points up at the stage. We can hear the CROWD CHANTING ABOVE. Tempting. She turns back to Fiona.

JOSIE
I said forget it. Find yourself another girl.

FIONA
(annoyed)
Yeah, see I would -- but everybody's already here. Too bad. But maybe all you need is a little more incentive.

Wyatt waves at a BURLY THUG who pulls aside one of the backstage curtains ... to reveal VAL and MEL. Their hands are tied. The thug shoves them out into the middle of the room.

WYATT
I found two little girlies who thought they could skip out on their hotel bill.

JOSIE
Val! Mel!

MELODY
Josie --!

Val shushes her.

VALERIE *
Don't talk to her! *
(to Fiona) *
Yeah right, you think Miss Diva's gonna * care if you do something to us?! *

JOSIE *
Listen to me! I didn't mean any of that * stuff I said! Wyatt and Fiona were * putting subliminal messages in our -- *

FIONA
(silencing her)
Can it, Rusty, your story's boring! Wyatt, show the two young ladies what we have for them this evening.

56 CONTINUED: (2) 56

WYATT
Gladly, my dear.

VALERIE
Kiss ass.

WYATT
I heard that.

Wyatt PULLS ASIDE the stage curtain to reveal ... A NEW CAR! Shiny, red and revolving on a game-show platform.

MELODY
A car? Val, I won a car!

FIONA
(annoyed)
No, you didn't win a car.

MELODY
(to Val)
Oh my god, you won a car!!

Fiona looks unbelievably frustrated.

FIONA
No one won a car!!!
(collecting herself)
The car is about to be part of history.
(to Josie)
Mel and Val's history -- if you decide not to play tonight.

She points a REMOTE at a NEARBY MONITOR. A CLIP from "MTV NEWS" comes on. SERENA ALTSCHUL narrates.

SERENA ALTSCHUL
This is Serena Altschul with breaking news. The Josie and the Pussycats debut concert was unexpectedly cancelled when an automobile exploded in the stadium parking lot. The passengers were identified as Valerie Brown and Melody Valentine, two of the founding members of the popular rock band. Examiners on the scene were quoted as saying "the two died a slow, fiery death inside that four-wheeled hellpit.".

We see footage of a FIERY CAR WRECK. Josie gasps.

56 CONTINUED: (3) 56

SERENA ALTSCHUL (cont'd)
We are told Josie will be releasing a statement to the press within the hour to comment on this tragedy.

Wyatt turns to Josie, pretends to take notes.

WYATT
Yes Josie, what *are* your comments? We're so curious ...

Meanwhile, Val and Melody are being forced into the car by the THUGS. Josie looks horrified. The girls look out the car window, helpless.

WYATT (CONT'D)
Hmmm, play the show, roast your friends? What's a girl to do?

Josie glares at Wyatt, steely. But she has no choice. She walks over to her guitar and PUTS IT ON. Turns back to Fiona, holds up her hands in angry defeat. Fiona smiles gleefully.

MELODY
See Val? She still likes us.

JOSIE
(turning)
Oh, Mel, of course I do! You guys are my best friends on the planet. And I know you don't treat friends the way I treated you. But, believe me, if I could go back in time, I'd take it all back.

MELODY
(bummed)
That would be cool.
(hopeful)
If I could go back in time I'd wanna meet Snoopy.

Josie walks over towards the car.

JOSIE
Mel. I love that about you. How you think everything is possible and the world is such a great place. Because, you know, it is. And I'm sorry if for one second I made you think it wasn't. And Val ...

Val doesn't even look at her. Josie pleads.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (4) 56

JOSIE (cont'd)
Val. You bought me my first guitar. And yeah, we may have started this band together, but the only reason we made it this far is because of you. I don't care if we're 'Josie and the Pussycats' or 'Valerie and the Pussycats', as long as we're together. You're my sister, Val. I love you.

Val turns, her eyes full of tears.

VALERIE
I love you too, Jose ...

MELODY
And I love you, Josie!

JOSIE
And I love you, Mel!

MELODY
And I love you, Val!

VALERIE
And I --

Impatient, Fiona cuts into the emotional tide.

FIONA
(dismissive)
I scream you scream we all scream for ice cream. Everyone loves everyone. Now let's get this show started!

Fiona draws a huge CURTAIN aside -- revealing a HYDRAULIC PLATFORM. The girls' EQUIPMENT is set up on it, backed by a WALL OF LIGHTS, spelling out "JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS". Very Vegas/Kid Rock looking. Josie climbs aboard.

57 EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT 57

The crowd is on their feet chanting for Josie. People hold up signs. Lighters. They're ready to start the show. EVERYONE IS WEARING THE LEOPARD EARS.

58 INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT 58

Josie takes her place. Fiona toys with a pair of the leopard ears.

58 CONTINUED: 58

JOSIE
So what is it this time, Fiona? Cross-trainers? Pizza bagels? Lip gloss?

FIONA
Oh it's bigger. Much much bigger.

Fiona laughs and Fiona flips the hydraulic switch to ON. It slowly starts to RISE. Then she walks over to the MEGASOUND 8000 and holds her finger over the PLAY BUTTON. The MegaSound is connected to a LARGE BROADCAST DISH.

JOSIE *
(threatening) *
It's gonna be hard to sell secret *
messages once your secret's out ... *

FIONA *
Oh, and tell me cookie, who will believe *
you? Who will get behind the ridiculous *
ramblings of one silly powerless girl? *

Suddenly, a GUY'S VOICE is heard from offscreen.

GUY'S VOICE (OS)
We will!

And with that, the SHADOWY GUY (you know, from Mel's hotel room) comes running in. Well, more like LIMPING in.

FIONA
Who the hell are you?

The Dirty Guy RIPS OFF his SCRAGGLY BEARD. It was fake. It's LES.

LES
Someone you thought you'd gotten rid of.

He's followed by THREE GUYS in FULL BODY CASTS. You can't see their faces, but from their accessories (and a BODY-CASTED MONKEY), we can tell it's the rest of DU JOUR.

ALEXANDRA
Oh my god it's Les from DuJour!!!

WYATT
Les?

LES
I tried to warn you.
(to Melody)
The message on your mirror?

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED: (2) 58

MELODY
That was you?!
(to girls, thrilled)
DuJour was in my bathroom!

VALERIE
But I thought you guys were killed in a plane crash.

FIONA
That's what *I* thought ... Wyatt.

The body-casted band shuffles about, pissed. Wyatt looks bewildered.

LES
We managed to land the plane just fine. Unfortunately, it was in the parking lot of a Metallica show.

Les gestures over at the guys.

LES (CONT'D)
The fans beat the crap out of us.

MELODY
Well you don't look so bad.

LES
I knew the words to "Enter Sandman".

We hear a MUFFLED LINE from one of the body casts.

LES (cont'd)
That's right! She's <u>not</u> gonna get away with this! C'mon guys! Let's get 'em!

The casts shuffle ever so slowly towards Wyatt and Fiona. One cast TIPS OVER.

WYATT
(dry)
Goodness, won't someone please save us.

FIONA
Anyway ...

She turns and looks up to the platform to see ... JOSIE'S GONE.

FIONA (cont'd)
Oh now come on.

58 CONTINUED: (3) 58

OVER AT THE CAR, Mel and Val are watching poor Les. Suddenly, the car door opens to reveal Josie, crouched down, trying to hide from Fiona. She motions for them to be quiet as she reaches in and UNTIES them. But unfortunately ...

FIONA (cont'd)
Boy, you almost got me.

Fiona is standing right below the revolving car platform, smiling at Josie.

FIONA (cont'd)
Curtain call, little one ...

The girls turn and run in the other direction, but the platform ROTATES them back around to Fiona.

FIONA (CONT'D)
Honestly. Girls all over the world would kill to be in your handmade boots. And here you are, running away from it. Why? So you can crawl back to Shitdale and spend the rest of your life being washed up with your friends Dopey and Bitchy here? *

She gestures at Val and Mel. *

JOSIE *
What would you know about friends? *

FIONA *
Oooh! *

Fiona DOES A MOCKING IMITATION OF THE PUSSYCAT HANDSHAKE. Then LAUGHS like it's the stupidest thing in the world.

Josie looks down at Fiona, who's laughing hysterically. Josie looks at Val and Mel, who NOD 'go for it'.

And Josie DIVES off the platform at Fiona. They go flying into the CATERING TABLE, sending food FLYING EVERYWHERE.

Josie and Fiona ROLL AROUND on the FLOOR. Fiona's THUGS run over to help, but Fiona barks:

FIONA (CONT'D)
Back off! I can take this one myself!

Josie uses this moment to shove a handful of CHEETOS into Fiona's open mouth. Fiona CHOKES and SPITS them out.

58 CONTINUED: (4) 58

FIONA (cont'd)
Bitch!

Fiona grabs a LARGE BOWL and CLOCKS Josie in the head with it. Josie is knocked over and Fiona leaps at her.

Fiona and Josie are on their feet now, circling each other like wrestlers. Feinting and ducking, waiting to see who throws the first punch. Fiona SLAPS JOSIE across the face. Josie SLAPS Fiona back. Then they just start SLAPPING each other wildly. SCRATCHING at each other. PULLING HAIR. A world class CATFIGHT.

Val runs over to help Josie. Wyatt steps in front of her.

WYATT
I don't think so, Slugger.

Val smiles.

VALERIE
Wyatt ... you messed with the wrong pussy.

We see a flash of fear cross Wyatt's face -- before Val PULLS HIS JACKET UP AND OVER HIS HEAD (like a hockey player) and starts VICIOUSLY PUMMELING HIM.

ANGLE ON MELODY -- KICKBOXING Fiona's thugs. Crazed. She's come a long way from the innocent girl we knew in Riverdale.

MELODY
Who wants a piece?!

SLAM! She boots some dude in the jaw with a wicked roundhouse.

MELODY (cont'd)
Who's next?! C'mon, bring it!

The other THUGS run away. She looks down at the one she just dropped.

MELODY (cont'd)
(genuine concern)
Oh my god ... are you okay? I'll get you an ice pack.

59 EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT 59

Two male fans look bored and annoyed. One looks at his ticket stub, then at his watch.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED: 59

MALE FAN #1
You know, if they're gonna start at nine, they should put 'nine' on the ticket. Not eight ...

MALE FAN #2
Every show, man. What the hell always takes so long?

60 INT. UNDER THE STAGE - NIGHT 60

VAL IS SWINGING WYATT around by the arm. She TOSSES him towards a ROPED OFF AREA, so he bounces back towards her -- and like a pro wrestler she CLOTHESLINES HIM. WHAM! He drops from view.

VALERIE
(major release)
God, that felt good!!!

Meanwhile, Josie and Fiona go tumbling over the MAIN CONSOLE in the CONTROL ROOM. TECHNICIANS scramble out of the way.

Josie and Fiona stand up behind the control board, looking a little scratched up and dishevelled. They are surrounded by video monitors of the crowd, all wearing the ear-headphones, cheering for the show to start.

Fiona picks up a nearby ELECTRIC GUITAR and holds it like a baseball bat.

FIONA
You know I never liked you.

JOSIE
That's because you have a problem with women. You're completely threatened by them. It's why you surround yourself with men. Think about it. Do you have any close female friends?

FIONA
Shut up!!

She swings the guitar at Josie, hard. It misses, but Josie looks a little nervous.

JOSIE
It's nothing to be ashamed of. You're just not a girls' girl.

Fiona stops swinging. Glares murderously at Josie. Josie starts slowly BACKING UP. Val and Mel look concerned.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
Oops, touched a nerve. Now what? Kill me with the guitar? Ooh. Then who's gonna get up and sing? You need me, remember?

Fiona moves towards Josie, raising the guitar overhead. She laughs. Josie's backed into a dead end.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED: 60

FIONA
(laughs)
Need you? I never needed you. I just needed someone to wear the ears. Doll, I created you. And you'd better believe I can destroy you.

Josie's trapped. Nowhere to run. Fiona smiles.

FIONA (cont'd)
And I don't have a problem with women, I just have a problem with you!!!

Josie cowers as Fiona RAISES the guitar over her head to DELIVER THE FINAL BLOW. But as FIONA SLAMS IT DOWN, JOSIE DIVES OUT OF THE WAY -- and the GUITAR COMES CRASHING DOWN -- RIGHT ON THE MEAGASOUND 8000. SMASH!!!

JOSIE
(looking at the damage)
I'm sorry, did you need that?

Josie smiles. She knew what she was doing. Fiona looks horrified. The MegaSound's SEVERELY DAMAGED, SPARKING and SMOKING. Fiona turns to the video monitors to see the KIDS IN THE STADIUM all taking off their headsets.

61 EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT 61

The kids in the crowd wince as LOUD STATIC and FEEDBACK pour from their headphones. Annoyed, they start chucking them into the air.

62 EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT 62

The LARGE BROADCAST DISH, bearing the MEGARECORDS logo, points to the sky.

CUT TO:

62A KIDS AROUND THE COUNTRY, ALL TAKING OFF THEIR HEADPHONES. 62A

63 INT. UNDER THE STAGE - NIGHT 63

Josie smiles as Fiona tries desperately to fix the MegaSound.

FIONA
WYATT! FIX IT!!!

In pain, Wyatt limps over and lifts the top off of the machine. He waves away the smoke and tries to repair the damage. He points at a TECHIE.

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: 63

WYATT
You! What's your job?! Fix this!

The TECHIE wanders over and POUNDS on the machine a few times. Nothing.

FIONA
(whiny)
It's too late! They're taking off the ears ...

Just then, the light on the MegaSound FLICKERS WEAKLY. The voice of the MOVIEFONE GUY crackles over the MegaSound's speakers.

MOVIEFONE GUY (OS)
(on machine)
Fiona is the coolest girl in the world! Everybody loves Fiona! She's got the best hair, and the most awesome clothes! And she's so thin! I know I want to be just like Fiona! ...

Everybody turns to Fiona, confused. Including Wyatt. Fiona tries to laugh it off.

JOSIE
That's the secret message you wanted to send out? That you're cool?

FIONA
What? That'th not me -- I thwear! I have no idea how that got on there!

Now from the MegaSound we hear Fiona's voice.

FIONA (OS) (CONT'D)
(through machine)
You're not doing it right!

We hear a struggle.

MOVIEFONE GUY (OS)
Hey! Ow! That hurts!

FIONA (OS)
(on machine)
If I wath a guy I'd tho wanna ask her out. And if I wath a girl I'd wanna be her betht friend forever!

ALEXANDRA
What's wrong with your voice?

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: (2) 63

FIONA
(on machine)
We'd have thlumber parties and thtay up all night braiding each otherth' hair and having tickle fighth!

Josie and Val look at each other. They burst out laughing. Everyone does. Fiona can't take it any more.

FIONA (CONT'D)
(to Josie)
Oh thure! Laugh at me! Go ahead. You don't know what itth like! To be teathed and ridiculed every day of your life! "Theven thilver thwans thwam thilently theaworth!" "Thee thells thee thells by the theasthore!" I tried, didn't I?! All I ever wanted wath to be popular. Whatth tho bad about that?

Before anyone can respond, Wyatt speaks up.

WYATT
Oh my god ... Lisa?

FIONA
(whips around to face him)
What did you call me?

WYATT
Lisa Snider? "Lithping Litha?"

FIONA
That was ... my nickname from thchool.

WYATT
... Huntingdon High School?

FIONA
Yeth ...

WYATT
Lisa, it's me. Wally! White-Ass Wally!

FIONA
White Ath Wally? The Albino kid? That'th impothible! I mean, firtht of all he wathn't Britith.

63 CONTINUED: (3) 63

WYATT
(suddenly dropping his accent)
I'm not. I just started talking this way because I thought it would make me more attractive.

FIONA
And he wath tho pale ...

Wyatt rubs at his forehead revealing a patch of WHITE SKIN.

WYATT
Makeup! Ever since we graduated, all I've been doing is changing myself to be more likeable! Cosmetics, diets, surgeries ...

FIONA
I learned to thpeak without a lithp!

WYATT
Look!

He rips off his TOUPEE. He's completely bald.

FIONA
Look!

She takes out a false tooth. Smiles at him.

FIONA (cont'd)
I can't believe it'th you! Ithn't thith the thtrangetht cointhidenth?

They beam at one another, emotional. Both on the verge of sobbing, they joyfully run towards each other. Wyatt stops just in front of her.

WYATT
Wait ...

63 CONTINUED: (4) 63

And then he EXHALES, letting out his LARGE GUT. It hangs over his belt.

WYATT (cont'd)
Ahhhh. I've been holding that in for the past fifteen years.

FIONA
I think ... it'th thexthy.

MELODY
Ohhh. This is so romantic.

VALERIE
Uh, I guess ...

JOSIE
Yeah, in a ... creepy ironic sort of way.

Wyatt and Fiona tentatively, awkwardly, HOLD HANDS. *

ALEXANDER
She's right. All this time I've been spending money on expensive clothes, trying to impress people -- but it never made me happy. Happy is on the inside! I am not what I wear!

Alexander begins stripping off his clothes. Alexandra rolls her eyes.

ALEXANDER (cont'd)
Accept yourself, sister! You don't need to throw yourself at men for validation! You should start by getting happy with who you are!

ALEXANDRA
Oh please. Unlike you bunch of whack jobs, I'm perfect just as I am!

63 CONTINUED: (5) 63

AGENT KELLY (OS)
Holy shit! That girl's got a skunk on her head!

Agent Kelly has just walked into the room and he points at Alexandra, shocked. Then he takes another look.

AGENT KELLY (cont'd)
Oh, jeez. It's just your hair. Sorry. But that's messed up.

Alexandra puts her hand over her hair, suddenly embarrassed.

ALEXANDRA
I'm ... perfect just as I am.

Agent Kelly looks around. A few other AGENTS enter behind him.

AGENT KELLY
What's going on in here? Aren't you girls supposed to be playing a concert? The crowd is going nuts.

We can hear them CHANTING for JOSIE and the band from above. * Alexander is now completely naked (of course, any R-rated parts are * comedically covered up) but no one seems to notice. *

JOSIE
Who are you?

AGENT KELLY
Agent Kelly. I'm with the government.

JOSIE
Oh thank god! Did you know Fiona and Wyatt were using that machine to send subliminal messages through our music? They were trying to create an army of mindless teenagers! To make them buy things and even control their thoughts!

AGENT KELLY
(feigning shock)
They what?!!

FIONA
Oh come on, you knew about thith from the very be--

AGENT KELLY
Gentlemen, arrest that woman and that man!

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: (6) 63

FIONA
What?!

AGENT KELLY
On charges of conspiracy against the youth of America!

FIONA
You can't be theriouth!

AGENT KELLY
I am serious, ma'am. This is a very serious offense.

The agents SLAP CUFFS on Fiona and Wyatt. Agent Kelly leans in to Fiona and whispers.

AGENT KELLY (CONT'D)
Sorry Fiona, they busted us. We need somebody to take the fall.

FIONA
You bathtard.

AGENT KELLY
Besides, after the concert we were shutting down your entire operation anyway. We found out subliminal advertising works much better in movies.

As he says this, TWO WOMEN IN BIKINIS walk by in the background carrying a FLASHING NEON SIGN that reads: "JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS IS THE BEST MOVIE EVER! JOIN THE ARMY."

Wyatt leans in to Fiona, shy.

WYATT
Maybe after we get out of prison we could go for pizza?

She smiles her gap-toothed smile and they hold each others' handcuffed hands as Agent Kelly leads them away. The other agents round up the rest of the bad guys, leaving the gang alone under the stadium. Naked Alexander steps up, holding a BLUE BASS in front of himself.

ALEXANDER
Well, now that you guys are done saving the world ... I think there's the small matter of a half a million kids out there ... who need to feel happy on the inside.

63 CONTINUED: (7) 63

He LIFTS THE BASS UP to hand it to Val. She grimaces and waves it back down where it covers him up. We hear the CHANTING from above. Val smiles.

VALERIE
Let's do it.

Melody twirls her sticks. She's ready. Val straps on her old bass and steps towards the hydraulic stage. Josie stops them.

JOSIE
We can't.

VALERIE
What?

JOSIE
We can't go on. Don't you see, guys? The only reason they're out there is because of Fiona's messages. It's ... what I thought. We didn't earn this. They never really liked us or our music.

They consider this for a beat. Valerie steps up to Josie.

VALERIE
So what are we gonna do? Just pack up and go home?

Josie doesn't say anything.

VALERIE (cont'd)
Okay. If we go out there what's the worst that could happen? They boo us off the stage?

MELODY
(super-positive)
We've been booed off lots of stages!

VALERIE
She's right. So what? We'll go back to playing in bowling alleys like the old days. The three of us. And that's all that matters.

MELODY
Remember? "Friends first ..."

Josie smiles at them.

63 CONTINUED: (8) 63

JOSIE
And a band second.

They do a pussycat handshake.

63 CONTINUED: (9) 63

64 EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT 64

The LIGHTS DIM. The crowd ROARS in anticipation. Spotlights swirl over the audience. "Thus Spoke Zarathustra" blasts over the speakers. As the music swells, the huge CAT EARS on top of the stage LIGHT UP. The place goes nuts.

Josie and the Pussycats RISE UP from beneath the stage. Kids SURGE forward, crazy, as the lights come up to reveal the girls. The crowd is still roaring.

Josie looks overwhelmed. She tentatively steps up to the mic. As she does, the ENTIRE CROWD PUTS THEIR CAT-EAR HEADPHONES BACK ON, eager for the show to start. Josie stares out at them. All those ears. All those faces, looking up at her. It's too weird.

JOSIE
You know what, I'm gonna take these off.

She takes off her cat-ears. The crowd takes their ears off too. Josie puts hers back on, and the crowd follows.

JOSIE (cont'd)
Whoa.

She stops.

JOSIE (cont'd)
Okay ... look. I know you're all here because you heard something you liked on our CD. So we thought maybe we'd start off with something you haven't heard.

Val smiles at Josie. Mel nods.

JOSIE (cont'd)
It's cool if you like it, or even if you don't. Just decide for yourselves. We're playing it because it means something to us. Maybe it'll mean something to you too.

Josie looks down at her guitar for a moment.

JOSIE (cont'd)
This is for someone who said he believed in me.
(nervous)
Kinda wish he was here now.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: 64

She STRUMS her guitar softly, SINGING a few bars quietly at first ... and then she nods to Mel. Who counts off --

MELODY
One! Two! Three!

And the girls rip into the full song. Upbeat and raw. The crowd perks up a bit, but they're not going wild. Yet.

Josie and Val trade glances. Is it going well? They can't really tell, so they just sing and play and have the time of their lives.

But slowly, the crowd starts to get into it. Bobbing their heads. Some even start dancing. By the second chorus, the energy is spreading through the crowd. Except for the LAUGHING GIRLS, who sneer and push their way out of the crowd, leaving. Guys are TAKING THEIR SHIRTS OFF AND THROWING THEM ON STAGE.

They get to the BREAKDOWN SECTION, when far off at the back of the floor seat, we see a GLIMPSE of someone JUMPING UP AND DOWN.

MALE VOICE
JOSIE!!!

As heads turn around we go WIDER TO REVEAL -- Alan M. He's as far from the stage as humanly possible. He's a speck. There's no way Josie can see or hear him.

ON STAGE -- the girls continue the breakdown.

ON ALAN M. -- who's now figured out a new way to get up front -- CROWD SURFING.

ALAN M.
(being passed overhead)
JOSSSIIEEE!!!

Josie looks up. Spots him way back on top of the crowd.

JOSIE
Alan M?

ALAN M.
JOSIE!

He WAVES FRANTICALLY at her. The crowd almost drops him.

JOSIE
What are you doing here?!

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: (2) 64

Alan M. struggles to stay up.

ALAN M.
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU -- EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT ME AS I DO ABOUT YOU, AND EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T COME TO MY GIG --

JOSIE
Your gig? Wyatt told me it was cancelled!

He's beginning to make his way towards the stage.

ALAN M. *
THAT DICK! *

Alan M. accidentaly BOOTS a guy in the face. *

ALAN M. (CONT'D)
(to guy)
Sorry, man.

JOSIE
Wait -- what do you mean 'I don't feel the same way about you as you do about me'?!

He's getting CLOSER to the stage now.

ALAN M.
THAT'S WHAT I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU! JOSIE MCCOY, I --

THUD! He's DROPPED. Josie WINCES. The crowd OOOHS. But some guys PUT HIM BACK UP AGAIN.

ALAN M. (cont'd)
I LOVE YOU!!

Josie can't believe it.

JOSIE
You do?! Alan M., I love you too! I always have!

ALAN M.
YOU DID?! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?

JOSIE
(shy)
We're such good friends. I didn't want to screw things up.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: (3) 64

ALAN M.
JOSE! YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL AND TALENTED AND EVERYTHING A GUY COULD EVER WANT! I TOTALLY WANNA SCREW THINGS UP!!!

Josie beams, the crowd cheers.

Alan M. is deposited at the foot of the stage. He scrambles to his feet and faces Josie.

ALAN M. (CONT'D)
I love you.

Josie smiles up at him, a little teary.

JOSIE
I love you too.

And with that, THEY KISS. THE GREATEST KISS YOU'VE EVER SEEN, LIVE IN FRONT OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE. The crowd CHEERS, WHISTLES. Except for one GEEKY GUY in the stands in an "I LOVE JOSIE" T-SHIRT.

GEEKY GUY *
Damn. *

His equally GEEKY FRIEND consoles him. On stage, Josie and * Alan M. part, oblivious to the onlookers. They laugh.

ALAN M.
You know, I think someone stole my wallet in there.

JOSIE
Sorry.

Val steps up, still PLAYING.

VALERIE
Uh ... Jose?

Val gestures to the crowd.

JOSIE
Right!

She turns to Mel to CUTOFF the breakdown -- and then the SONG KICKS IN again. The crowd's really into it now.

64 CONTINUED: (4) 64

And the Pussycats love it. They smile to each other as they play. Alan M. watches from the wings, proud. Alexander and Alexandra dance with Du Jour.

Josie and the Pussycats are having the time of their lives -- it's like nothing exists outside of this space, this moment... Their eyes connect -- they really did it. And the girls keep their eyes on Josie as she LIFTS HER GUITAR NECK to give them the signal to end the song. She holds it up in the air as they keep jamming -- and then she finally LEAPS into the air with a flying WINDMILL to her guitar. As she lands we --

BLACKOUT. We can still hear the crowd cheering.